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ILLUMINATIO BRITANNIÆ:

Or, A True and Faithful

NARRATIVE

Of what pass'd at a

CONFERENCE

Held at the

Admiralty - Office, Whitehall,

O N

Sunday the 11th of January, 1740-1.

[Price stich'd 2s 6d.]



WILLIAM W. WATKINS

NEW YORK

C. G. & F. W. WATKINS

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Sunday the 11th of January, 1740-1,

BETWEEN

The Right Honourable Sir CHARLES WAGER,
First Lord Comissioner of the *Admiralty*, and Captain JOHN
MORKE (by Birth a *Dane*) by express Appointment of Sir
CHARLES, &c.

I N

A LETTER from a Gentleman in Town to his Friend, (an
old Revolution Whig of Distinction,) in the Country.

*O magna vis veritatis! quæ contra hominum ingenia, calliditatem, solertiam
contraq; fictas omnium insidias, facile se per se defendit. Cic. in Orat. pro M. Cælio.*



L O N D O N:

Printed for the Author, and sold by the Book and Pamphlet-sellers of
London and Westminster. 1742.

6

ILLUMINATIO BRITANNIAE
OF A TREATISE
NARRATIVE
CONTEST
N.B. This Letter concludes with some short Reflections naturally resulting, from the various Proceedings, in this most extraordinary and important Affair : And, *inter alia*, plainly shewing, and by irresistible Arguments proving, *That the Ballance of Trade, as well as of Power, in Europe, might, by the sole Use of this Scheme, be wholly vested, and for ever rivetted, in the Crown and Kingdom of Great Britain ALONE.*

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

VII
J. H. f. 7 May



CONTENTS.

SECTION I.

AN *Authentic Copy of the Proposal or Scheme then laid before the Admiral in Writing, by the Captain: By which, "in this great Crisis of Europe, an easy, expeditious, "and infallible Method was propos'd, whereby to destroy, or "compel the Surrender, of any Fleet or Number of Enemies "Ships whatsoever, whether at Sea, or in Port, be it ever so "strong, &c."*

SECTION II.

The Subject Matter of the said Scheme, canvass'd thoroughly by the Admiral, debated hinc inde by both; and then fully approv'd of and allow'd to be very practicable by Sir Charles.

SECTION III.

An authentic Copy of a Letter, dated the 31st of August last, from the Captain to Mr. Peter Collinson in Gracechurch-Street, London, (the Admiral's Friend, and the Person who first introduced the Captain to Sir Charles) complaining, inter alia, of the Severity of the Usage he had received, &c.

SECTION IV.

Another ditto from the Captain to Sir Charles himself, dated the 16th of November last, and deliver'd into the Admiral's own Hands the 18th, upon the Subject of the above-mention'd Conference, the Justice of, and his Reasons for, publishing the whole Transaction to the World, &c.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE

ON THE

REVISION OF THE

CONSTITUTION


OF THE UNIVERSITY

OF CHICAGO

1900

CHICAGO

PRINTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



S I R,

I N Obedience to your Commands, as well as to satisfy your Curiosity, I do herein send you (since you are determined not to wait for its Publication) an *authentic Narrative*, &c. of the whole Affair, as it now stands, between the Right Honourable Sir *Charles Wager* and Captain *John Morke*; an Affair so astonishing in its own Nature, and that will cause such Surprize to the Public here, and, in Time, to all *Europe*, that the bare Perusal of it, tho' but only once, will, I am fully persuaded, to one of your thorough Judgment in all maritime Concerns, and of your known Penetration into the most hidden Springs and Causes of Things, as highly delight your Mind, from a just Consideration that will naturally arise in it, of the easy Possibility there is of restoring the Ballance of Trade to *Great Britain*, and of regaining that of Power in *Europe*, by the sole Use of *Captain Morke's* Scheme, as it will, with the utmost Indignity, raise your Admiration, and awaken your Surprise, when you come to observe, in the Sequel of this *Narrative*, that so fair an Offer and a Proposal that might with such great Ease, and almost incredible Dispatch, be put in Execution, hath been rejected. And therefore not to detain you from a Pleasure, that, by your earnest Sollicitation in your last to me, you do so much long for the Possession of; if I begin the Work abruptly, without any further Ceremony, you will, I doubt not, have Candour enough to apologize for me.

And

And that I may do it succinctly and accurately, as well as Step by Step (for you well know me to be no Stranger to your Delicacy in *Narratives* of all Kinds, and particularly in *Sea Affairs*) I am to inform you, that a particular and intimate Friend of Captain *John Morke's*, who happens likewise to be an old Acquaintance of mine, a Person distinguish'd in his Character for his Sincerity to his Friends, did, at the Captain's earnest Request, apply to our *Premier* on the 26th Day of *December*, 1740, with the Original of the following Section, being the 1st, called, *A Sketch of the Proposal*, &c. He had the Honour of being admitted into that *great Man's* Closet alone, who, with his usual Affability and Condescension to his Inferiors, perused it with Attention; of which the following is, to my Knowledge (as are also the other three Sections) an authentic and an examined Copy, the Original having been subscribed, as the Authenticity of it will be sworn to, by the Captain.





S E C T. I.

*An Authentic Copy of the Proposal or Scheme then laid before the Admiral in Writing, by the Captain : By which, " in
" this great Crisis of Europe, an easy, expeditious, and in-
" fallible Method was propos'd, whereby to destroy, or com-
" pel the Surrender, of any Fleet or Number of Enemies
" Ships whatsoever, whether at Sea, or in Port, be it ever so
" strong, &c."*

A Person aged about Fifty, bred to the Sea from his Infancy, and of an establish'd Character for his Integrity and Conduct in private Life, as well as for his uncommon Skill in Naval Affairs, especially where Mechanism is required, proposeth, in this great Crisis of *Europe*, an easy, expeditious, and most practicable Method, and with a small Force of Ships, whereby totally to destroy, or absolutely to compel the Surrender of any Fleet or Number of Ships whatsoever, or of any Strength whatsoever, whether at Sea or in Port, be it ever so strong : And all this in the Space of a few Hours, after the Ships are within Gun-shot of each other, and without any Possibility of Miscarriage in the Enterprize, tho' the greatest, and of the greatest Consequence, of any that was ever yet proposed or offered to any Prince or State whatsoever, from the Beginning of the World to this Day.

B

That

That this Affair, great and astonishing as it is, even far beyond the first Discovery of *America*, is yet of so very plain and intelligible a Nature, as to admit of clear mathematical Demonstration, for its Veracity and Support, to almost any Person, though not bred to the Sea, nor so much as distinguish'd for unusual natural Parts or Endowments.

That after this Method hath been but once put in Execution, it will ever afterward be impracticable for any of the now strongest and most formidable maritime Powers (so attack'd) to send out so much as one single Ship, whether for War or for Trade, without the Consent, Approbation, or Connivance of such other maritime Power, as shall be possessor of this grand Secret: And yet the Thing, when discovered (such is the remarkable Humility of the Proposer) will appear to be so very plain and obvious to all human Understanding, that the famous Moral of the great *Columbus's* Egg will bear a just Parallel to it.

The Terms on which the Proposer hereof (who is a Foreigner by Birth to *Great Britain* and all its Dependencies) offers to make a fair, plain, open, intelligible and self-evident Discovery of the Fact, are as easy and reasonable as the Thing itself, *viz.* To have an adequate Consideration secured to himself, if, on the Disclosure thereof as above, it appears to be true.

N. B.

(II)

N. B. *It is humbly presumed, if what is here represented be, on the strictest and most rigid Enquiry, found to be a plain demonstrable Truth, that then it will no longer be a Question, even with the greatest Enemies to the present Administration, what Nation it is that the Ballance of Power, as well as of Trade, in Europe, is in its Possession. Nor, therefore, who that vigilant Minister is that hath, by his unparallel'd Courage and Conduct, been the sole Cause of such unexpected Grandeur, and lasting Happiness to his King and to his Country.*

John Morke.

After his Honour had done, and had thoroughly perused the *Sketch of the Proposal, or Scheme*, he was pleased, in the most obliging Terms, to inform the Captain's Friend, who attended him with it, ' That he knew not but that it might ' be a very good Thing ; but that, as Affairs of that Kind ' were by no means in his Province, he could say nothing to ' it : ' But added, ' That the Captain might wait upon Sir ' *Charles Wager* in his Name, and that if the Admiral should ' approve of *the Proposal*, he would readily himself give a ' helping Hand to it, ' or Words to that Effect : And then the Captain's Friend retired, being well satisfy'd with the Genteelness of his Reception, and the Success of his Commission.

Accordingly the good Captain, having been fully apprised of what had pass'd with our *Premier* and his Friend, immediately proceeded to take such Steps as might furnish him

with a proper Handle to be admitted to Sir *Charles*, in order to lay before him his *Proposal*, not in the least doubting of an agreeable Reception, which he met with accordingly, as you will find by the next *Section*, which is the *Second*, containing, the Subject Matter of the Scheme, &c. likewise subscribed, and then to be sworn to by the Captain, as are, and will be also, the remaining two *Sections*.



SECT



S E C T. II.

The Subject Matter of the said Scheme, canvass'd thoroughly by the Admiral, debated hinc inde by both; and then fully approv'd of and allow'd to be very practicable by Sir Charles. To which is added, all that followed thereupon with Mr. Collinson.

BY the Recommendation of Sir *Hans Sloan*, whom I had informed, that I had some Things of the utmost Consequence to communicate to the Ministry in Naval Affairs (in which I had been from my Infancy brought up, and with which I was thoro'ly acquainted) and who had known me for sundry Years last past, on Account of various rare Curiosities I had the good Fortune to please him with, and that I had at different Times brought with me from *North America*; I say, Sir *Hans* was kindly pleased to direct me to apply, in his Name, to Mr. *Peter Collinson* in *Gracechurch-Street*, not only as one who was a Member of the *Royal Society*, and therefore a proper Person to hear and receive every thing that was curious and extraordinary in its Kind, but chiefly as he was an intimate Friend and Confident of the Right Honourable Sir *Charles Wager*, who was, on all Hands, judged to be the most eminent Personage I could be introduced to, with Relation to what Discoveries I proposed to make in Favour of this Kingdom, in Sea Affairs, at this critical Conjunction; and more especially as a War against *Spain* had already been declared, and under strong Apprehensions of another with *France*. I waited accordingly soon afterwards upon Mr. *Peter Collinson*, in Sir *Hans's*

Hans's Name, who received me with open Arms ; and to him I communicated (in order to pave the Way securely for me with his great Friend *Sir Charles*) that *Sir Robert Walpole* had, by a particular Friend of mine, been applied to on the 26th of *December 1740*, with my Proposal ; whose Answer was, *That the Scheme in Question was not in his Province, &c.* but with great Freedom directed, that the Person immediately concerned, *viz.* My Self, might, in his Name, apply to *Sir Charles Wager*. With which Account *Mr. Collinson* was so well pleased, that he appointed *Sunday* the 11th of *January* following, at Six in the Evening, to attend with me, and wait upon *Sir Charles* : But, on calling upon *Mr. Collinson* the *Saturday* before, I found he had Business of Consequence, that prevented him from doing me the Honour he intended of going with me, as appointed, the next Evening, to *Sir Charles*. He was therefore pleased to give me a sealed Letter to *Sir Charles*, with the Sketch of my Proposal inclosed ; which serv'd my Purpose as well : For, on the next Evening, soon after Six, *viz.* *Sunday* the 11th of *January 1740-1*, I had the Honour of attending *Sir Charles* ; and then I found his Honour ready and prepared to receive me, as he immediately did ; and, as I imagin'd, from the Nature and Importance of what I was to communicate, I had likewise the Honour of being introduced to him all alone.

After *Sir Charles* had ordered me to seat myself near him, and then enquiring of me, if my Name was not *John Morke*, he entered immediately upon my Proposal ; and then I opened the Conference in the following Manner and Words, or Words to the following Purport and Effect, *viz.*

Sir,

Sir, as you have done me the great Favour to permit me to attend your Honour, on Account of what I have to lay before your Honour for the Service of this Kingdom in Sea Affairs, pray suffer me to beg your Honour's Answers to two or three Questions I must take the Liberty to propose, in order to bring your Honour to a thorough Understanding and Knowledge of my Scheme. To which his Honour was graciously pleased to reply in the Affirmative, *That he would.*

Having then his Honour's Leave, the first Question I put was the following, *viz.*

Q U E S T I O N I.

Sir, If you was resolved to attack any very strong Harbour, secured by Booms and Chains across, have you any Way or Contrivance, now in Being, known or practised, to preserve those Ships, as may be sent in to break or destroy those Booms, from the Enemy's great Fire from their Ships or their Bastions, Forts, or Ravelings, &c. that are usually erected for that Purpose on either, or on both Sides, or Flanking them, to defend them?

His Honour's Answer was very free, fair and candid, and what I expected from a Personage of his known Integrity in Life, and particularly of his great Skill, Ability and Experience in all Naval Affairs, *viz.* in the Negative; *No, none but the common Way, the Ship's own Sides to bear the Brunt; or Words to that Effect.*

My

My next Question was, *viz.*

Q U E S T I O N II.

Has your Honour any Method or Contrivance to bring your Bomb-Vessels or Ketches to a proper Place to moore them, where they may lie with Safety to do Execution, and yet be so well defended and secured from the Enemy's Fire, as fully to answer the End proposed by the Admiral, or Commodore who appointed and ordered them to perform that Service?

Sir *Charles's* Answer was, as before, in the Negative; No, none but as usual, her own Ship's Sides to defend her.

I proceeded then to the third Question, which was my last, and which, indeed, took up full Two-thirds of the whole Time I had the Honour to be with Sir *Charles*, as the candid and judicious Reader will, from the Nature of the Question, soon observe it must.

Now, Sir, I must take the Liberty to put the last Question, *viz.*

Q U E S T I O N III.

If in an Engagement with a Squadron or Squadrons of Enemies Ships, have you any Way of making a quick, certain and speedy Dispatch, so as to determine the Engagement, and, with little or no Risk of your own Squadron, yet
totally

totally to destroy, or absolutely to compel the Surrender of that of the Enemy? Have you, Sir, when you come within Gun-shot of the Enemy's Squadron (even if it be Two to One in Number and Rate of Ships, as well as Men and Weight of Metal superior to your own) any Way or Method to destroy their Squadron, or to compel them to strike and surrender, other than the common, *viz.* by exchanging *Broadside and Broad-side, &c.* together with the Help and Assistance of Fire-ships, as usual?

To all which the Admiral, with the like Frankness as before, answered No, *none but the common Chance, Broad-side to Broad-side, with the Help of the Fire-ships.*

My three Questions having been thus fairly put, and fair and just Answers having likewise been made to each of them by Sir Charles, I then proceeded and told his Honour, that I could and was ready prepared to inform him of a direct and indisputable, a quick, most practicable, easy, and not at all expensive, Way and Method, whereby fully to answer my three above-mentioned Questions, and effectually to obtain all the great Ends proposed by them. Upon which the Admiral readily assented to hear me out, and seemingly inclining to go into a Sea Engagement first (tho' the last of my three Questions) I comply'd with great Alacrity, and begun it thus, *viz.*

Since your Honour hath been pleased to chuse a general Engagement at Sea first, I beg your Honour will favour me with naming in what Form, Manner, or Situation, you will

C

engage

engage in ; that is, whether By, or Large, or How ? To this his Honour readily agreed, and named his Form of engaging ; which was, with the Wind on the Beam, &c. and went thro' the whole Sea Fight with me, in a most cautious and highly judicious Manner, and with great Address, Skill and Judgment, taking all Advantages that offered, disputing every Inch with me, till at last his Honour narrowly observing the fatal Consequence, and plainly and absolutely foreseeing, what must of Necessity attend his trembling Squadron, if he did not choose to strike the *Union Flagg*, tho' back'd by Eighty Ships of the Line, he submitted to surrender the whole Fleet under his Command, tho' so powerful and strong, rather than have it totally destroyed ; and then readily allowed, that according to this Scheme, as proposed by me, and executed by my Method, there was no Remedy but to strike and surrender, or to be totally destroyed, since to escape was impossible and impracticable : And thus ended our Sea Engagement, and is the first Instance I ever knew, or heard of, or I believe any other Man living, that Sir *Charles* was ever beat at Sea, or was compell'd to strike to his Enemy, altho' but in *Theory* only.

Having thus compell'd our brave Admiral to strike to me (and had he really commanded Eighty Ships of the Line, and myself far short of that Number, he must have equally submitted and struck, or have been destroy'd, as I am well satisfy'd, he will frankly acknowledge to be most true, on the Footing of my Scheme) we proceeded to the Question on the Attack of the strongest and best fortify'd Harbour known, or that could be imagined, and thoroughly secured by Booms, Chains, &c. To perform which important Service, I laid down and described the
Method

Method to his Honour in few Words ; yet such as carried so many convincing Arguments, and clear and demonstrative Proofs of the Reality of that Enterprize, and of the Impossibility of its Miscarriage, even tho' Fifty or more Pieces of the largest Ordnance, properly pointed, were playing upon me all the while, that Sir *Charles* readily gave up that Point also, as he had the Sea Engagement, and was obliged to see, and to allow, that the Booms, Chains, &c. were blowed up, broke or destroy'd, before his Eyes, an open Enterance made into the Harbour, altho' it had been so well fortified with Booms or Chains, and garnish'd with large Cannon, as before described, and even with a Squadron of Ships of the Line within, as an additional Guard to the Booms, &c.

And lastly (Sir *Charles* still indulging me with the great Honour and Favour of his Conversation, without the Interruption of any other Company) we came to the only Question remaining unsolved, *viz.* That there is a certain and sure Method of mooring the Bomb Vessels or Ketches, so, and in such a Form and Position, as to do the Execution, and perform the Service design'd by their Commander to be done by them, even in the Midst, the Heat of, and during the most dreadful Fire from the Enemy's Forts, that can be imagin'd or thought of, tho' within half Gun-shot of each other, and the Enemy's Guns truly pointed and levelled against them. All which, like the former, Sir *Charles* allowed was very practicable, easy to be understood, and as easily to be performed and executed.

And thus I had the Satisfaction to make good and clearly out (as Sir *Charles* readily and frankly allowed and acknowledged) what I had undertaken to do, on proposing my three Questions, as stated in the Beginning of this Conference, which I had the Honour to have with him.

Upon the Whole, Sir *Charles* was pleased so fully and sufficiently to declare his Approbation of the plain and practicable Discoveries I had so frankly made, and of the easy Plan I had laid down before his Honour for the public Service, as moved him likewise, on his Part, to be free with me; and therefore he thought fit to inform me, that altho' he fully approved my Scheme (which he kept by him, and did not then, nor since, return to me) yet it was his Opinion, that the *present* was not a proper Time to have it put in Execution; for that the Event of the *West-India* Expedition now on Foot, meaning that, then under the Command of Lord *Cathcart* and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, must be first known, before that, proposed and laid down by me, could be entered upon: But that, in the mean Time, and until I should be better provided for, his Honour suggested, that I should, for my Encouragement, have some Promotion in the Navy. To which I reply'd, That I doubted I was entirely incapacitated to accept of a Commission in the Navy, since I was a Foreigner by Birth, and had not yet had the good Fortune to be naturalized, according to the Laws of *Great Britain*; and as for Money, I expected none, until my Scheme had been put in Execution, and had succeeded; altho' the Terms upon which I had delivered in, and made out my Proposal, to his Honour, were quite otherwise, *viz.* To
have

have a Consideration adequate to the Service proposed by my Scheme secured to me, provided, upon the plain and open Discovery and Disclosure thereof, it appeared to be true * And that I had thus, and in the most clear and ample Manner, fully and fairly made out such my Proposal or Scheme, so laid before his Honour as aforesaid, and had, beyond all Exception, proved, that the same was supported by the plainest and most evident Truths, that the Nature and Veracity of any thing was capable of admitting, or of being examined by, Sir Charles was far from denying: His Honour having, as already, and more than once, has been observed, fully approved of my Scheme, and of all the particular Discoveries founded upon it.

So that having observed, that the Admiral was as highly delighted with the Novelty, as he was pleased with the infinite Use, that could, upon any emergent Occasion of the State, be with great Ease and Dispatch, and little Charge, made of those new and surprizing Discoveries, I had so freely and readily laid before him, and in order to obtain something or another however, was it even but a Feather in my Cap, for such extraordinary and important Services, as from the Admiral's visible Satisfaction, and his full Approbation of my whole Proposal, Scheme or Plan, and from my own Consciousness of the demonstrable Truth of all that I had so fully declared and asserted to him, I judged I had done his Honour for the publick Weal; and since I found nothing more solid, was likely then at least to be my Reward, I told his Honour, That as I had some Thoughts of returning soon to *North America* (my Wife and Children residing at *Boston*) I had still
some

* See the Terms in the last Paragraph of the first Section.

some further Discoveries to make to his Honour, tho' of another Nature, than those I had the Satisfaction already to have made to him, but that they were yet such as highly concern'd the Interest of *Great Britain*, since when made, they would be of the utmost Consequence to some of the richest and most useful of his Majesty's Colonies in *North America*, to the Situation of which, and the great Importance of their Trade to and with *Great Britain*, I knew his Honour was no Stranger.

For these Reasons therefore, and after Leave obtained, by his Honour's desiring me to go on, I proceeded and laid before his Honour the defenceless State of *Boston*, in *New England*, in its present Condition; and then I took the Liberty to lay down the Plan, and in what Method and Manner that wealthy and trading City, the very Life, Soul and Center of Trade in *North America*, might be attack'd by Sea, invested and destroyed by an Enemy; which Sir *Charles*, with Surprise, however allowed to be too plain and too practicable for a willing and powerful Enemy to put in Execution. This led me naturally to what I wanted to point out, which I did clearly and effectually, and to the Admiral's full Satisfaction and Approbation, viz. Not only how to remedy this great Evil, by preventing any Enemy whatsoever from Success, if *Boston* should be attack'd, but likewise to destroy them so, as neither their Shipping nor their Crews, &c. should ever return, if attempted.

We then proceeded to *Rhode Island*, a Place of no small Trade and Consequence, and a Colony of itself, and clearly and plainly

plainly demonstrated the great Difference of its *bearing*, &c. from *Boston*, so far as the Particulars I laid down, might serve to illustrate what I proposed for the Safety and Defence of that Island also, in Case of any unexpected Attack from *Martinico*, or elsewhere. All which Methods of mine, Sir *Charles* readily granted, would fully answer the salutary and necessary Ends proposed by them.

The last Harbour and Place of Trade I mentioned was *New London*, in the Colony and Government of *Connecticut*: A Harbour by its Depth and Situation (and in both these quite different from *Boston* and *Rhode Island*, as I plainly shew'd, and of which I fully convinced his Honour) and other Advantages heaped upon it by indulgent Nature, in Favour of Trade in general, that the *Admiral*, who was candid enough to be satisfy'd, that what I had so represented, was true in Fact, was exceedingly surprized and shock'd, when I inform'd him, that it was, notwithstanding of its excellent Situation for Trade, still wholly defenceless, and altogether unfortify'd: And yet much more so when I represented, and, indeed, demonstrated in what Manner all this might be perfectly and fully remedy'd: And that by a Method so easy, so convincing, and attended with so trifling an Expence, as should not exceed that of a small Platform, mounted only with six or eight Guns for a Salute; yet all this without the Charge, or so much as the Shew of building and erecting any Fortification at all. To all which my different, yet plain, Methods of absolute Defence, for those *three* Places of such vast Consequence to the Trade and Happiness of those Colonies, at present so much exposed, in Case of any Attack from
an

an Enemy, Sir *Charles* was generously pleased, highly to approve of, and freely promised me, to recommend me in the strongest Terms to *His Grace the Duke of MONTAGU*, (having just before told his Honour, that a Deputation from his *Grace* in the Ordnance for the above-mention'd Colonies would be acceptable to me) in order to procure for me what I had so modestly, I hope, proposed to accept of, meaning the Deputation in the Ordnance, under his said *Grace* as just mentioned. Since as his Honour was pleased in the most friendly and frank Manner to assure me, That from the new Discoveries I had so freely made, and the practicable and easy Methods I had so generously pointed out to, and laid down before, him, he believed I was a Person very capable and fit to be employed in the public Service, in my Way, and to be entrusted in naval Affairs of such great Consequence.

Then I requested his Honour, after he had so candidly and truly thus given me his full Approbation, not only of the Particulars of the *Sketch of my Proposal*, but likewise with Relation to all the Methods I had laid down and offered in the Defence of the *Boston, Rhode Island* and *New London*, &c. I say, then I thought myself intitled to beseech his Honour, that he would likewise be pleased to inform the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole* (by whose Direction to my Friend, I attended him with the said *Sketch of my Proposal*) that I had accordingly waited upon him (Sir *Charles*) and that I had had the good Fortune to be so kindly received by him, and to have had his Honour's favourable Assent to, and full and compleat Approbation of, every Thing I had laid down before him, in the Conference he had done me the Honour

Honour for so long a Time to hold with me, on the subject Matter in Debate. This Request his Honour also readily and chearfully granted me, and in so many Words freely promised me, to inform Sir *Robert* of all that I had so generously, and without Reward, laid before him for the public Service, with the very first Opportunity, signifying likewise to me, with a pleasing Countenance, that he would certainly do it as the very next Morning, (*viz.* *Monday* the 12th of *January* last was twelve Months) for then he was to see Sir *Robert*.

Upon receiving so polite and so good-natured an Answer, it moved me to think of another Affair, very much wanted, and that would be of infinite Use to the King's Ships in the *American* Seas, altho', if I be not mistaken, it never was (like every one of the other important Discoveries I made to, and laid before, his Honour as above-mention'd ; for the Truth of all which, I do, in the most solemn Manner, thus publickly appeal to his Honour) so much as thought of, much less reduced into an easy and practicable Method before. And, therefore, after returning my most humble Thanks to his Honour, for the gracious Promise he had made me, to inform the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole*, and with such Dispatch as the very next Day, of the important Discoveries I had so frankly and freely made to him for the public Service, I told his Honour, I had still one Thing more to lay before him, with Relation to the Safety and Service of the King's Ships in the Seas of *America*, that would be of the utmost Service to *Great Britain*, and of the greatest Prejudice both to *France* and *Spain*, more especially in

D Time

Time of War, *viz.* After representing to his Honour the Necessity the King's Ships were under of returning home, particularly from the *West Indies*, when they had been out for any considerable Time, in Order to be dock'd, &c. and of the Length, as well as Danger, of their Voyages, that frequently happened before they could return, and innumerable other Inconveniences that naturally attend such Voyages home, by all which the Service of those Ships, where most wanted, was frequently frustrated and rendered altogether abortive ; for the too great Truth of which, I frankly appeal'd to his Honour. I then inform'd him, that I knew of a most certain Remedy, which would be a perfect Salvo for this great and hitherto incurable Evil : And on the Admiral's earnest Desire to know this grand Secret also, which I readily observed in his Countenance, had he said not a Word, (as I believe every one of my understanding and unprejudiced Readers, especially every worthy Commander of a King's Ship, would readily think and imagine he wanted to know) I did, without any Hesitation, inform him, and frankly unravel this Secret to his Honour also, *viz.* That I knew a Method, how, and in what Manner, to build and erect *floating Docks*, in any reasonable Depth, and even where there was neither Ebbing nor Flowing Water : By means whereof, the King's Ships of War, and other Ships in the Service, might be there dock'd and rendered, in a very few Days, again as fit for Service as if they had been dock'd in any of the King's Yards at home, &c. without the least Danger of the Sea, and the Hazard of Voyages home to *Great Britain*, besides the Length of Time, and other Inconveniences that are unavoidable, when such Ships wanted docking, &c. In which
Case,

Cafe, as his Honour well knew, such King's Ships, and others, were constantly sent Home to be dock'd, when the troublesome, but common Way of *heaving them down* could no longer, with any tolerable Success in the *West Indies*, be put in Practice. His Honour being highly pleased with the rational, and great Use and Importance of this new Method of mine, for building *Floating Docks*, (which he frankly declared he had never heard of before) since he well knew no others were practicable in those Parts; and having likewise fully approved of the same, as he had done indeed of every Thing else I had laid before him during the whole Conference, as before observed, I retired just, (it happened so) as another Gentleman, an intire Stranger to me, and I to him, was entering the Room (for during the whole Time of this long Conference, I had the great Honour, as the *French* say, of being *Tete a Tete*, with the Admiral) and took my Leave with the best Scrapes so old a Tar as myself could make, of Sir Charles, and assured his Honour, I should forthwith apply to his intimate Friend, and my Introducer to his Honour, Mr. *Collinson*, (which I had likewise before hinted) for his Honour's Directions when to attend and receive from him such Commands as his Honour should think proper to favour me with; adding, That I well knew how precious his Honour's Time was, and how constantly it was imploy'd in National and Naval Concerns for the publick Good, as an Apology for such my intended Application to Mr. *Collinson*, to whom, if his Honour thought fit, I said, I likewise proposed to communicate some of the Particulars I had laid before his Honour, that so his Honour might, thro' that Channel, the better, and with the more Dispatch, convey his Answers or Commands to me with little

no Interruption of the public Affairs in his Province. To all which Sir *Charles* having fully assented, agreed to, and approved of, I took my final Leave for that Time, and then withdrew: And thus ended the Conference, that the Right Honourable Sir *Charles Wager* did me the Honour to hold with me upon the subject Matter of the *Sketch* of my *Proposal*.

I come now regularly to what follow'd upon and after it, which is so very extraordinary, that I shall take the utmost Care to avoid all unnecessary Repetition and Confusion in the Matter I have yet to represent; being determin'd to give as just and impartial a Narrative of the bare and simple Facts only, that are yet to come, and as they occur'd and happen'd between Mr. *Collinson* and myself, as I have already done of the *Conference* held at the *Admiralty Office*, between his worthy Patron Sir *Charles Wager* and me, to the Time I was advis'd, and had resolved to write him my Letter of the 31st of last *August*; and then to leave, not only my own Conduct in, but also the Event and Issue of, this whole Affair, to all those whom it may more immediately and naturally concern, *viz.*

Having, at the Close of the *Conference*, promised Sir *Charles* that I would attend his Friend Mr. *Collinson* with Dispatch, I did accordingly the very next Morning, being *Monday* the 12th of *January* 1740-1, wait upon Mr. *Collinson* at his House in *Gracechurch-Street, London*, who received me with great Pleasure and a smiling Countenance: And to him, as well in Obedience to the Commands I had received from the Admiral, as from my own Inclination, I imparted so much
with

with great Freedom, and such of the Particulars as had pass'd in the Conference over Night with Sir *Charles*, as I judged were proper for him to know : And then I declared to him the great Success I had had with Sir *Charles*, from the full Approbation his Honour judged proper, and, no doubt, most justly, as well as generously, to give to all the Discoveries I had so freely made, and so frankly, openly, and without the least Reserve, laid before him ; and such as were founded upon the Writing, intituled, *The Sketch of my Proposal* : And to convince Mr. *Collinson* that Things were really so as I had represented them to be, I farther communicated to him, that Sir *Charles* had been pleased to give me yet a fuller Proof of his Approbation of my Scheme, than by barely allowing of it to be very good and practicable ; for that he had been so indulgent to me besides, as not only in the most kind and obliging Manner to promise solemnly, but likewise to repeat such his Promise to me more than once, at the Close of the Conference, that he would immediately do me two Pieces of very great and material Service, viz. To recommend me to his Grace the Duke of *Montagu*, for a Deputation under his Grace in the Ordnance, as a Person very fit for, and capable of such an Employ, more particularly, if there should be Occasion for such Service in *North America*, which his Honour apprehended, and myself very well knew there was : And then the Second was, which I liked the best, his Honour promised also very positively, and in so many Words, that he would take the first Opportunity, which he declared should be the very next Morning, to acquaint the Right Hon. Sir *Robert Walpole*, that I had attended him with the *Sketch of my Proposal* ! (as the said Sir *Robert* had directed me to do,

do, by an intimate Friend of mine, who had waited upon his said Honour with it the 26th of *December*, 1740, as before-mentioned) and that he had held a Conference with me, upon the subject Matter thereof, the Particulars whereof I had made out to his, the Admiral's, full Satisfaction, and with his Approbation, that the same was very practicable, and might be of great Use to the public Service, when the same was wanted, or Words to that Effect: Upon hearing all which, Mr. *Collinson* well knowing that it was by Sir *Charles's* Commands that I attended him with my Report, was highly delighted with the Success I had met with, and promised, that once in two or three Days he would attend the *Admiral* on my Account, in order to know his Honour's true and full Opinion of my *Scheme*, or *Proposal*; and likewise to remind him of his two Promises he had made me, that pleased me so much; and that he would, with great Satisfaction to himself, readily, and with Pleasure, sollicit the Performance of them with Dispatch. And thus having, *Bona fide*, related the Substance and Purport of what past at my first Interview with Mr. *Collinson*, after the *Conference* held with Sir *Charles*, I took my Leave of him, and we parted, I dare swear, both highly delighted: Mr. *Collinson*, with the Satisfaction he had within his own Breast of having recommended a Person that had had the good Fortune to make himself so agreeable to his great Patron Sir *Charles*, on Account of the important Discoveries he had so freely opened and laid before him, as to deserve his Honour's full Approbation, &c. and myself in knowing it all to be most true.

But

But being determined not to hurry my good Friend Mr. *Collinson* too much, I gave him a whole Week's Time, instead of two or three Days, which was his own voluntary Offer. After the Expiration whereof, I attended him, and then he frankly told me he had waited upon the Admiral on my Behalf, and that Sir *Charles* had generously, and without Hesitation, assured him, that the Report I had made to him, Mr. *Collinson*, was true; for that he, Sir *Charles*, had very well approved of my *Proposal*, or *Scheme*, and of all the Discoveries that I had, at the Conference, made to, and laid before him; all which he believed were very practicable; but that he apprehended they were at that Time too late to be put in Execution for the present *West-India* Expedition, or Words to the same Effect, as the *Admiral* himself had been pleased to suggest to me, immediately after the Conference held between his Honour and myself, on *Sunday* the 11th of *January* as aforesaid. Upon which I took my Leave of Mr. *Collinson*, and deferred paying him another Visit, (being as unwilling to be troublesome to him, as I was ready and willing to give him a breathing Time) for about three Weeks.

On my Return, Mr. *Collinson* still receiv'd me, as indeed I expected, with great Candour and Civility, at least to all outward Appearance: But on my enquiring of him, whether he had had the Pleasure of waiting upon Sir *Charles* since my last Visit? His Answer was in the Affirmative, that *he had*; and this led me to enquire further, *viz.* Whether his Honour had been so kind to favour me with any Commands, or had said any thing more to him upon the subject Matter of my Discoveries? Mr. *Collinson's* Reply then, was altogether in
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the Negative, *No* ; which, indeed, being boy'd up with great, and I well hop'd just, Expectations, made me look a little blank : However, I repeated my Sollicitations to Mr. *Collinson*, in my own Behalf with the *Admiral*, requesting, that he would once more be pleased to remind his Honour of the kind Promises he had made me, to recommend me to his Grace of *Montagu*, and to make a just Report of my Services, as he had so frankly agreed to do, to the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole*. To perform both which, Mr. *Collinson*, at this our second Interview, faithfully promised to execute ; and that I might not over-charge his Memory too much, I pull'd a small Memorandum out of my Pocket, wherein the said Promises from Sir *Charles* to me were mention'd, (for I was no Stranger to the great Difference there is between *Litera Scripta*, and *Vox audita*) which I took the Liberty to give Mr. *Collinson*, who very gravely and generously put into his ; and kindly promised he would see Sir *Charles* once in a Day or two, and recommend my Affair to him, and would then procure his Honour's candid Answer to my *Litera Scripta* ; and then I parted from him in the most friendly and obliging Manner, after he had once more however assured me, that I might depend on his Patron's Answer in three or four Days Time at furthest.

Being then thus full freight with great Hopes, at last I returned to my good Friend Mr. *Collinson*, within the Time limited, and on enquiring of him after his Honour's good Health and Welfare in the first Place, I added, And what doth the *worthy Knight* say of my Affair now ? To which Mr. *Collinson* reply'd, That the great Weight of the Navy Affairs,
were

now in Time of War, and of *parliamentary Business at home*, had made them well-nigh slip out of his Honour's Memory : But that on his (Mr. *Collinson's*) taking the Freedom to hint only some of the Particulars of my *Scheme*, his Honour then readily recollected them all : And then Mr. *Collinson* was candid enough, (according to my Request, made to him at my last Visit, both verbally and in Writing) to assure me, that he had enquired of Sir *Charles*, on my Behalf, whether his Honour had yet been so good as to speak to and recommend me, according to his most frank and generous Promise, to his *Grace of Montagu* ? But that Sir *Charles's* Answer to him was, That *he had not* : Upon which, continued Mr. *Collinson*, (speaking to me all the while) I ask'd the *Admiral*, why ? To which Sir *Charles* reply'd, That, on reflecting upon what he had promised me, he had alter'd his Opinion : For that he did not now intend to ask any Favour of his *Grace* for any-body, because he had determin'd to lye under no Obligations of that Kind ; since they were generally loaded with Returns of Ten-times the Value, or Words to that Effect : But that if I could find any other Friend that would solicit his *Grace of Montagu* in my Favour, and that thereupon his *Grace* would be so kind to ask him (Sir *Charles*) about me, and whether I was a Person capable of being employ'd in such a Station, in the Ordnance, that then Sir *Charles* would readily recommend me to *his Grace*, in the strongest Terms, and would with great Justice speak in my Favour, according as he had (immediately after the famous and so often-mention'd *Conference* held with him was over) promised me before, and some more Words of that and the like Kind.

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Then

Then, continued Mr. *Collinson*, I enquir'd yet farther of his Honour for you : My next Question having been, whether he had yet spoken to the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole* about Captain *Morke* and his Affairs ? To which the Admiral answering again in the Negative, No ; I reply'd (said Mr. *Collinson* to me) and why not ? To which Sir *Charles* made the following Answer, as Mr. *Collinson* assured me in so many Words, *viz.* " That if Sir *Robert* had been in " Earnest in his Recommendation, then he (meaning Sir " *Robert*) would have ask'd him, Sir *Charles*, of himself," (*viz.* about me and the *Sketch of my Proposal* that had been laid before him the 26th of *December*, 1740. by my Friend as already mention'd) and then he, Sir *Charles* (that is, if Sir *Robert* had spoke first) would readily have told him every Thing about you, particularly how practicable your Discoveries were, &c. &c. &c. and then I suppose, continued Mr. *Collinson*, according to his kind and favourable Promises to you ; Sir *Charles* would have assured Sir *Robert* (that is, still if Sir *Robert* would have apply'd first to Sir *Charles*) that you ought, in the mean Time, and until something better was done for you, to have some Provision made for, or allowed you, one Way or other, or Words to that or the like Effect. So far, Mr. *Collinson* to me, with Relation to his great Patron's two Promises of speaking to his Grace of *Montagu* (for a Deputation in the Ordnance for me) and also to the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole*, in Behalf of the Veracity and great Use of my *Scheme* for the publick Service.

I come

I come now to the last Scene of this Tragi-Comedy ; which was, That I ask'd Mr. *Collinson*, whether he had likewise been so good, since Sir *Charles* had been thus pleased to evade his Promise, of acquainting Sir *Robert* with the Validity of my Discoveries verbally, as to request of the Admiral to do it in Writing, by Way of Report on the Back of the *Sketch of my Proposal* ; that so, my Friend, who had the Honour of laying that Paper, first before Sir *Robert Walpole*, viz. on the 26th Day of *December*, 1740, as aforesaid, might, by Way of Alternative at least, have it in his Power at last to return that Paper to the Minister, with Sir *Charles's* Opinion or Report indorsed on it. This Mr. *Collinson* told me he had likewise apply'd to Sir *Charles* for (as indeed he had likewise at my last Visit promised he would) but the Answer he received to it was still in the Negative, No: The Admiral adding " That he did not incline to put Pen " to Paper but on some particular Occasions."

Now my last Request to Mr. *Collinson* (who as before observed at the End of the Conference, was the Channel appointed by the Admiral himself, for the Conveyance of Commands Messages, &c. between him and me) was, that Sir *Charles* would be pleased to return me by him my Paper, call'd, *A Sketch of my Proposal*, which was not only the Basis and Foundation of the Conference, and of all that followed upon it, but likewise was the very individual and identical Writing, that my worthy and most sincere Friend had had the Pleasure of laying before the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole* on the 26th Day of *December*, 1740, as more than once already mention'd : But to this Mr. *Collinson* an-

swer'd, That he had not forgot that neither ; but that on requesting the *Admiral* for the Return of the Paper in Question, (which I had likewise begg'd him to do, in Case it should so happen, that the *Admiral* could not at last be prevail'd on to indorse his Opinion, or to make some Report or other in Writing, upon it) Sir *Charles* was pleas'd then indeed to answer very candidly, tho' still in the Negative, No : Because (and Mr. *Collinson* asserted to me that the Fact was really so) as Sir *Charles* was of the Opinion, That at this Time (meaning the Month of *February*, 1740-1, and indeed he had said the Like to myself, at the Conference about a Month before) it was not proper to put my *Scheme* in Execution ; so, fearing the said Paper (being I suppose of a dangerous and destructive Nature to *some-body*) might, by Chance, fall into *improper* Hands, he, Sir *Charles*, had judg'd (very prudently no doubt, there being no mathematical Proof, that there was so much as a single rough Draught of it *in esse*) That it was likewise very *proper* to burn it : And that these were the Words of the *Admiral* to him, or Words carrying the like Meaning, and conveying such Sense, so as to be thus understood, on Mr. *Collinson's* desiring and requesting the Return of the Paper in Question, that Gentleman, without any Hesitation, frankly assur'd me of. This indeed startled me, and I could not help keeping my poor Paper in Countenance, for I was, on hearing it, immediately all in a Flame too, tho' Reason and Patience, together with the Aid and Assistance of the most serious Reflection on my own Folly and Weakness, and too great Credulity and Dependence, first becalmed and cooled my Breast, and then at last extinguish'd

extinguished what had, by the four unexpected *Admiral's* *Negatives* arisen in it.

And thus ended my third Visit to Mr. *Collinson*, who had the good Nature however on my parting from him, and at my repeated Request, still to assure and promise me, that he would notwithstanding of all that had passed, at *proper* Opportunities, continue his Solicitations to the *Admiral* in my Favour ; and certainly that was the least Thing Mr. *Collinson* could undertake to do in my Behalf, since he had been so lately convinced from Sir *Charles's* own Mouth of the Reality and great Importance of my *Scheme* for the publick Service of these Kingdoms.

But tho' I frequently call'd at Mr. *Collinson's* House afterwards, yet I had always the Mortification to miss of him, which moved me at last, but not till full six Months were expired, to write him a short Letter the Beginning of last *August* ; to which having no Answer, I sent him a second the last Day of the same Month. To which, and to the great Use and Importance of the four hitherto *unanswered* *Queries* therein, I do in this publick and open Manner freely appeal to all *Those* whom it may more immediately concern : And hope some one or other of *the Friends* will reply for him, since I am not likely to be favoured with any from himself, five Months and upwards having elapsed since its Delivery. And so concluded this famous *Conference*, together with all that followed upon it.

John Morke.

At

At last, Sir, I return, and am indeed at a Loss to know whether I ought to make any Apology to you for the unusual Length of this second Section, call'd, *The Subject-matter of the said Scheme canvassed thoroughly by the Admiral, &c.* or, whether your natural Candour and Curiosity will not rather induce you to thank me for the Pleasure you will readily observe I have taken to execute your Commands, tho' attended with a good deal of unusual Trouble and Pains to myself: Because of the many minute Circumstances, of which I think I have missed none, that are in any Respect material, or that can give any further Light, into this most extraordinary and astonishing Transaction.

And thus reserving my own private Reflections upon this whole Affair, which you likewise so earnestly and eagerly solicit me for, to the Conclusion of my Letter, I proceed to give you an accurate and examined Copy of the good Captain's Letter of the 31st of last *August* to Mr. *Peter Collinson*, the Gentleman so often mention'd towards the Close of the last Section. A Letter so very strong and nervous, and so very much becoming a Person of Captain *Morke's* Character, and the great Importance of the Subject treated of in it, that I flatter myself, your Pleasure will increase with the Bulk of my Epistle. You have it, therefore, as follows, *verbatim*, the same being the Third Section, *viz.*

S E C T



S E C T. III.

An authentic Copy of a Letter, dated the 31st of August last, from the Captain to Mr. Peter Collinson in Gracechurch-Street, London, (the Admiral's Friend, and the Person who first introduced the Captain to Sir Charles) complaining, inter alia, of the Severity of the Usage he had received, &c.

S I R,

I Was in great Hopes, on my Return to Town, to have found at Esq; *Winthrop's* a few Lines from you in Answer to mine of the 6th Instant ; but a full Week having elapsed since my Return, I begin now to believe I shall have none ; and yet I was weak enough to flatter myself, that my Letter was of such Weight and Consequence (especially to one of your good Sense, and to so great, so profest and so known a Friend to his King and to his Country, as all Persons of Judgment who have the Pleasure of being acquainted with Mr. *Collinson* must readily allow him to be) as to have deserved some other Regard and Attention than that only of the most profound Silence.

But, Sir, since Things are so, and since it seems it is become fashionable to despise all Merit, if naked, and not otherwise supported, let one's Country's Interest be ever so much
concern'd

concern'd and at Stake (which was apparently the Case when my Proposal absolutely to destroy or to compel the Surrender of the whole *Spanish* Fleet, and the *French* too, if that had been thought proper, had the Honour of being narrowly scrutiniz'd into, and examined by, your great Relation * Sir *Charles Wager*, and then by him approved of) I say, Sir, altho' I have not had the good Fortune to meet with the least Encouragement, and, I might add without Falshood, even hardly with good Manners, or at least with common Civility, and that for the Reasons alledged, I do not now expect any ; yet, Sir, my ardent Wishes, and the infinite Concern and Regard I have for the Welfare and Prosperity of this Protestant Kingdom, and of its Dependencies, are such as have thus once more determined me, before I leave the Town, to apply to you, Sir (for a proper Access to, or Audience of, Sir *Charles*, I have for some Months last past found altogether impracticable) and humbly to beg you will be so good, so candid, and so impartial, as fairly to answer in writing the few following Questions which I take the more Liberty to propose to you, since, as you well know, I had that Confidence in your Honour and Integrity, as to entrust you, by Sir *Charles's* Direction (for I frankly acknowledge, that by your Interest only I was introduced to him) with sundry of the Particulars of my *Scheme* and of my Proposal, viz.

Q U E S T I O N I.

Whether had not any (or all) of the Sea Ports or Cities the most wanted by this Kingdom, whether in *America* or in *Europe*,
not-

† When this Letter was sent, Captain *Morke* knew no better, but that Mr. *Collinson* was a Blood Relation of the Admiral's.

notwithstanding of their present Strength, in all human Appearance (to speak modestly, with an inconsiderable Loss of Men, and Expence in Money, been long since in our Possession, and likewise the whole *Spanish* Fleet, taken or destroyed, had the above-mentioned Proposals, or other plain, intelligible and practicable Offers made by me, laid before the Honourable Sir *Charles Wager*, the Beginning of *January* last, been accepted of and put in Execution?

Q U E S T I O N II.

Whether I demanded, by Virtue of such my Scheme, Proposal, or other plain Offers, so made by me for the public Service, any Premium or Reward whatsoever, until the Services proposed to be done, had been put in Execution, and had succeeded?

Q U E S T I O N III.

Whether even now, in case a War should happen to break out with *France*, the said Scheme is not still very practicable? And would it not yet, late as is, if vigorously pursued and put in Execution (which might effectually be done in less than one single Month from this Time) be able absolutely to destroy or compel the Surrender of the whole *French*, as well as *Spanish* Fleets, whether at Sea, or in Ports or Harbours, be they ever so strong?

QUESTION IV.

And lastly, if what be above represented is true in Fact, (and that it is so you know I can again demonstrate) then whether if I, who am a Stranger to *Great Britain* by Birth, can, by any unprejudiced and thinking Person whatsoever, be in the least accounted blame-worthy, I say, if I do apply to such other Maritime Power, which may, on thoroughly examining, and then approving, of the above-mentioned Scheme, Proposal, &c. readily, and with open Arms, embrace them, and put them with the like Dispatch in Execution against *Great Britain*, or *those* who have, after a continued Solicitation of Six Months and upwards, and in whose Power it had been, nay, and still is, to exterminate for ever by Sea, all their own, as well as their Country's, open and avowed, as well as secret and concealed, but powerful, Enemies, be so accounted, by rejecting them?

Now, Sir, having freely disburthen'd my Mind, and fully cleared my Conscience of and from all that hath past, as well as from all that may hereafter happen, let the Consequence be what it will, you will, I doubt not, according to your known Justice, Humanity and Candour, if, in my Absence, either my Honour or Character should, on account of any foreign Application by me, be attack'd, always fully vindicate the Conduct of him, who hath so long, so steadily, and so earnestly attempted, tho' hitherto in vain, to serve the Crown, assert the Honour and Dignity, and with the Risk of his Life itself, offered to pursue, promote, and, at last, to
 establish

(43)

establish the real Prosperity and Glory of *Great Britain*, and all its Dependencies at Home and Abroad, and who is and shall for ever remain, without Flattery or Affectation,

Dear S I R,

Your most faithful and

Most obedient humble Servant,

August 31. 1741.

John Morke.

Superfcribed thus, *viz.*

To Mr. *Peter Collinson*,
in *Gracechurch-Street*,
London.

This, Sir, you will, I believe, readily allow is a most surprising Letter ; and I add, that one of your distinguishing Genius and deep Penetration into the most occult and abstruse Springs and Causes of the intricate Actions of great Men and their Favourites or Emissaries, will make no Scruple to acknowledge, that (to use Captain *Morke's* pithy Words in his Letter to his Friend Mr. *Collinson*, as I do approve of his Sentiments on the Subject in Question) such an excellent Piece, as you have now before ye, “deserved some other
“ Regard and Attention, than that only of the most profound
“ Silence.”

F 2

But,

But, not to employ your Time with my criticizing or defcating upon Affairs of fo dark and obfcure a Nature, and that are therefore as much above my Reach and Capacity, as they are within your's, I come now regularly to, and present you with, the laft Section, which is the Fourth, as promised you in the Beginning of my Letter. It is intitled, " A Letter from Captain *Morke* to the Right Honourable Sir *Charles Wager* himfelf, and delivered fo very lately, into the Admiral's own Hands, as the 18th of *November* laft." I fhall make no Remarks upon it, Sir, leaving that to your fuperior Judgment and juft Way of thinking and diftinguifhing, unlefs it be to affure you that it is fubfcribed by Captain *Morke*, as an authentic Transcript, and an examin'd Copy of the Original fent to Sir *Charles*; and that fuch its Authenticity will likewise be fworn to very foon, by the faid Captain, as I have already told you the three foregoing Sections alfo will; and then you may depend, fince you infift upon it, that you fhall have, by the firft Poft, after the faid whole four Sections have been fo fworn to, an examined Copy of it alfo.

In the mean time I flatter myfelf, the following Section will, in a moft particular Manner, give you a frefh Proof of the high Delight I am always fenfible of, when I can furnifh fo valuable a Friend, and fo good a Correfpondent, with any thing worthy of your Attention, *viz.*



S E C T. IV.

A Letter from the Captain to Sir Charles himself, dated the 16th of November last, and deliver'd into the Admiral's own Hands the 18th, upon the Subject of the above-mention'd Conference, and upon the Justice of, and his Reasons for, publishing the whole Transaction to the World, &c.

S I R,

TEN Months and upwards having now elapsed, since the Time I had the Honour of the Conference with you, at the *Admiralty Office*; by your own special Appointment; and having more than once or twice since then apply'd to Mr. *Collinson*, your Honour's Friend in *Gracechurch-Street*, as directed to do; and having likewise sundry Times attended at the said Office: Yet I have always been unfortunate enough, as neither to find Access to your Honour, nor to receive any Answer from that Gentleman, but what was altogether inconsistent with those favourable Promises your Honour was kindly pleased to make me, at the Breaking up of the said Conference.

And that these were twofold, your Honour will undoubtedly well remember, when I take the Liberty to remind you, that upon your Honour's great Indulgence to me
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in going quite thro', and narrowly examining into every the most minute Circumstance of the *Scheme* or *Proposal*, I had the Honour at the said Conference to lay before you in Writing, for absolutely destroying or compelling the Surrender of any Fleet or Number of Enemies Ships whatsoever, whether at Sea or in Port, be it ever so strong, &c. I say, at the Breaking up of the said Conference, you was graciously pleased to declare to me, you was so well satisfied with the Truth and Veracity of my *Scheme* for the above-mentioned Purposes, and so fully convinced that the same was very practicable and easy to be put in Execution, (or Words to that Effect and Purpose) that you would forthwith take an Opportunity, according to my earnest Request, to signify your entire Approbation of it, to the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole*, by whose Direction it was laid before you, the same not being immediately in his Honour's Province: And then in the mean Time, and until I should be better provided for, your Honour likewise faithfully and kindly promised, that you would, in a very little Time, interceed with his Grace the Duke of *Montagu*, for something for me in the Ordnance, relating to the Defence of sundry Ports in *New England*, and other Parts in *North America*, that lie to this Day very much expos'd, as your Honour likewise readily and frankly allowed to be true.

These, Sir, were the obliging Assurances you gave me of your Favour and Countenance, on my retiring from your Presence immediately after the Close of the Conference had with your Honour on the Truth and Validity of my *Scheme*. so laid before you, as above-mentiond, on *Sunday* the 11th
Day

Day of last *January* : But I am indeed under the most infinite Concern to find myself obliged to declare, that the Performance of them, or either of them, is yet to come.

However, Sir, after seven Months submissive Patience I apply'd once more to your Honour's Friend Mr. *Collinson* by Letter dated the 31st of *August* last, to the Contents of which I freely refer: And as he did me the Favour first to introduce me to your Honour, and that I had your Orders to attend him, that I might, thro' that Channel, be inform'd with Dispatch of your Pleasure or Commands, so I humbly presum'd, from the great Trust and Confidence I observ'd your Honour had repos'd in that worthy Person, that I might at least have been favour'd, if not with a proper, yet at least with a civil or general Reply to it: But herein, Sir, I likewise had the bad Fortune to be mistaken: For hitherto I have not been honoured with any, either verbal or written: And I believe it will be allow'd, that a most profound Silence following a Letter of great Consequence, for almost three Months together, would tempt a Man, endowed with less Candour than myself, to give over all Hopes of any Return to it at all.

For these Reasons, Sir, and being likewise fully convinced in my own Conscience, as well from the Conversation I had the Honour to have with you, upon the Affair in Question, as from the Nature and Certainty of the Facts therein laid down, and fairly allowed and fully approved of by a Personage of your Honour's known and consummate Judgement and Experience in all Naval Affairs; I say, Sir, being well satisfied

fy'd, not only on Account of the just mentioned Allegations, but also from my own Knowledge of the Facts stated, that every one of the Particulars of my *Scheme* so opened and laid before you as aforesaid, are self-evident, I have, after the most mature Deliberation and serious Reflection had within my own Breast, upon this important Affair, fully determin'd and absolutely resolved to publish this my Case, as advertised in the *Daily Post* of the 4th Instant: And this I purpose to do, Sir, (having however first consulted with my Friends) as well in Justification of your Honour's Conduct in this whole Affair, as in common Justice to myself: Who am, with great Truth and Respect,

S I R,

Your Honour's most

*Well-Bank-Street, near
Oxford Chapel, Nov.
16, 1741.*

Faithful and most

Obedient humble Servant,

John Morke.


Superfcrib'd thus, viz.

*To the Right Honourable
Sir Charles Wager.*

So much then, Sir, for *Captain Morke's* Letter to the Admiral; which I believe you will allow to be so full of good Nature and Politeness, considering the Severity of the Usage he has receiv'd, in Return for so many important Discoveries made

made by him, for the Service of this Nation, as Sir *Charles* himself so often and so frequently acknowledged to the *Captain*, that the like is not to be matched in any History whatsoever, whether ancient or modern ; and all this from a profess'd *Tar*, which renders it still more remarkable.

And to finish the *Captain's* Affair absolutely with the *Administration*, so far as he has been able to carry it on, by soliciting the Acceptance of his *Scheme*, for these twelve Months last past and upwards, tho' in vain, and to crown the Work, as he calls it, I do now, in the last, and I hope the proper Place, present you with an authentic and examin'd Copy, of his *Affidavit*, as to the Truth and Veracity of the four foregoing Sections, which I received from Captain *Morke's* own Hands this Morning unexpectedly, having likewise, as already hinted, been present when he made Oath thereof : which, if I mistake not, will be an additional Pleasure to you, from the Satisfaction it will administer, on the careful Perusal of a *Record* of so much Weight in, and of such vast Consequence to, this whole Affair, *viz.*


The AFFIDAVIT taken before the Right Honourable Sir
ROBERT GODSCHALL, Lord Mayor of the City of London,
by Captain John Morke, on the 30th Day of January,
1741-2.

JOHN MORKE (*by Birth a Dane*) late of Boston in
New-England, but now of London, Mariner, maketh
Oath, and sayeth, That the First, Third and Fourth Sections,
in the Fifth Page of the Contents of a Book, or Treatise, in
Quarto, now in the Press, printed at London for the Author,
and sold by the Book and Pamphlet-Sellers of London and
Westminster, Price Two Skillings and Six Pence, intituled,
' *Illuminatio Britanniae: Or, A True and Faithful Narrative*
' *of what passed at a Conference held at the Admiralty-Office,*
' *Whitehall, on Sunday the 11th Day of January, 1740-1,*
' *between the Right Honourable Sir Charles Wager and him*
' *this Deponent, &c.*' are literally true, barring some few im-
material Mistakes in the Transcriber, or, of the Press: And
this Deponent farther saith, That the second Section in the said
Fifth Page of the Book or Treatise aforesaid, there call'd, 'The
' *subject Matter of the said Scheme canvass'd thoroughly by the*
' *Admiral, debated hinc inde by both, and then fully approved*
' *of, and allowed to be very practicable, by Sir Charles, &c.*'
is likewise true, but not literally so; only however and because
the said subject Matter, being of such Length, could not be li-
terally retained in the Memory of this Deponent: But this
Deponent

Deponent saith, That the said subject Matter, so canvass'd at the said Conference, and all that pass'd in it with the said Sir Charles, as well as all that followed after it, both with the said Sir Charles and Mr. Peter Collinson, in the said second Section sundry Times mentioned, is either literally true, or is what so pass'd, and was transacted, in the like Words, or Words bearing the like Meaning, Purport and Effect: And this Deponent lastly saith, That all the said four Sections, and what is contained in them, in the said Work or Treatise itself, are not only literally true, or, as in the Terms above-mentioned, but likewise, that they are all Four subscribed with the usual Hand Writing of this Deponent.

Sworn the 30th Day of January,
1741, at Turner's Hall, in
London, before me,

John Morke.

ROBERT GODSCHALL, Mayor.

Having, Sir, now, at last, had it in my Power to lay before you Captain Morke's Affidavit, by the same Post that brings you the rest of his Papers, which I did not imagine I should, till about two Days since; and having thus perfected at once, what I propos'd to do at twice, which you will readily observe I intended, by some foregoing Parts of my Letter, I come now regularly towards the Conclusion of it, and shall, at your Desire, fulfil my Promise to you, by finishing with a few concise, and, I hope natural, Reflections resulting from this whole Affair; chusing rather to expose my Judgment to your candid Censure, than to have the Anxiety within my Breast, of being conscious to myself, that I have,

once in my Life, disobeyed your Commands, tho' perhaps, by my now Compliance with them, at the Expence of my own Character.

You well know, Sir, I am no Stranger to your Principles in Politicks, which are of the *Revolution* Kind ; nor that you have been candid enough, often and frankly to allow, even so long since as the latter End of the first Reign after that *Æra*, that those glorious and useful Ends proposed and promised by *those* who introduced it, were not then at least, in any tolerable Degree, consistent with the Liberty and Freedom of the Constitution, tho' so solemnly engaged for and stipulated, obtain'd by it : And no-body else will, I believe, hesitate to say now, that those salutary Ends, to speak modestly, are yet to come ; but by what Means, and WHEN, we are to be thus blessed with the Enjoyment of them, is, indeed, the grand Question.

True it is, that towards the latter End of Queen *Ann's fighting Reign*, a most fair and glorious Prospect of having every thing we wanted, and much more than any one expected, luckily appeared and shewed itself ; which was, however, to the great Grief and Astonishment of every true Patriot and wise Politician, *i. e.* every honest *Briton* capable of reflecting with Judgment, REJECTED. To this, Sir, methinks I hear you say, *and that was the Treaty of Gertruydenberg* : Right, my dear old *Revolution Whig Friend*, and so it was ; and I will venture to add, that, had that *Treaty* been accepted of, the *Impeachments* that soon followed the famous *Treaty of Utrecht*, and the Rebellion at *Preston*, had never happened ; since neither the last mentioned *Treaty*, nor the

the last *Rebellion* I hope we shall ever see in these Kingdoms, had ever existed: For too plain it is, that had the Treaty of *Gertruydenberg*, so offered by the then *French* Ministry, been accepted of by the then *English* one, it had not been at *this*, nor at any time of Day, since that most remarkable Period, a Question (and I fear it is none now) whether *Great Britain* or *France* had the sole Possession of the *Ballance of Power* and of *Trade* in *Europe*. But why that glorious Treaty, in effect, a *CARTE BLANCHE* offered by *France* to the then Ministry of *Great Britain*, was rejected, is yet a Mystery *in accluso*, to too many, tho' none to you, Sir: And to keep this just Reflection in Countenance, if you remember, yourself and others of your good Sense and Stamp in Politicks, have been often sanguine enough to declare, that it was hard to determine, whether those who proposed this Treaty in Behalf of *Lewis XIV.* or they who rejected an Offer so beneficial to their Country, and so honourable to their Royal Mistress, deserved worse, at the Hands of their respective Principals.

Indeed, had the *Utrecht* Treaty that followed it in about three Years, been religiously observ'd by the Court of *Versailles*, Things had been at this Time, very probably, in a more favourable Situation with us: But a known *fides punica* going on and wink'd at, for the Space of twenty long Years and upwards, instead of compulsive Means used to render that Treaty, such as it was, a literal *bona fide* one, hath been the chief Cause and Foundation, both of our Loss of *Power* and of *Trade*, in the Opinion of many able Men, sound Politicians, and Wellwishers to their Country.

But

But now all those great Advantages are past and gone, say you : They have been, indeed, within our Reach, but we have calmly and unconcernedly suffered them to slip by us : We must, therefore, look forward ; and if so, what must be done now at last ? I allow, continue you, we have both lost the Ballance of Trade and of Power in Europe : France hath outwitted us in both, and we are thus become the standing Joke of all Nations ; we owe more Millions now, than we did Plumbs (and, you well know, there be those, who do not blush even to assert, than we did single Thousands) some Fifty and odd Years ago ; and, which is worst of all, add you, (for I know your Sentiments upon this Subject full well) the dear-bought Protestant Interest, the Dread of losing, and the Charge in attempting to support which, have cost us so much Blood and Treasure, is at a lower Ebb, and makes a more contemptible Figure now in Christendom, than it hath done perhaps at any Time, since its first Establishment, and a whole Cloud of other Calamities I could name, that still subsist, and daily increase ; but they are now so well known, that I wave at this Time any other Complaint, and shall only add but one single Question of ten Words more, and then no more, viz. Is there any radical Cure left for us at last ?

I answer, my dear Sir, at once in the Affirmative, and say *Yes* : And this brings me naturally to the effectual Remedy I purpose to propose ; and, therefore, in course, to Captain Morke's Proposal, as laid before Sir Charles Wager, at the Conference held with that Admiral on the 11th of January, 1740-41, which I shall take the Liberty, in few Words, to set before you in a most true Light, and yet such as I am
well

well satisfied, notwithstanding the known Depth of your Penetration, and the remarkable Profundity of your Judgment, you can hardly expect from me, unless you were sure I had Demonstration, or mathematical Truth, for my Guide : And if you thus think you will find and be convinced before my Letter is finished that you do not err.

You, and all the Three Kingdoms with you, will, I believe, allow now at last, that we are here in the very *Eve* of a *Change* in the Administration, I do not say *total*, altho' there is, as it's thought, no Screen for our *Premier* : And, indeed, there seems no Possibility for the present Ministry to hold the Reins of Government any longer, at least intire : So that, on the bare hearing, that an Opposition continued and carried on with unheard of Steadiness, added to the greatest Skill and Address for almost Twenty Years together, and yet always baffled (the Excise Scheme only excepted) should at last so unexpectedly succeed ; one would, I say, thus reflecting, be almost tempted to conclude, that the Thing itself had been predetermined by the *Omnipotent*, to the utmost Surprise and Astonishment of every Body within Doors as well as without ; since all this happened without any previous Cause shewn, and without any uncommon Noise or *Eclat*.

Something, therefore, extraordinary we must naturally imagine will infallibly follow, and at the very Heels too, of an Event so suddenly to happen, and so big with expected Wonders : But what that must, or will be, is, indeed, in this grand *Crisis* of *Europe* the great Point in debate.

A *Change*, therefore, of a *Premier* alone, or even a total one of the whole Ministry, is, alas! no radical Cure for our chronic Distemper; nay, it cannot be properly, much less *truly*, called a palliative one, tho' a soporifick perhaps it may; but even that, I hope not with Truth. An *Alteration* then in *our Measures*; in *our Measures*, I say, is expected by you, and by me, Sir, and by all Well-wishers to their Country. Very well, for it is most true; but, *hic Labor, hoc Opus*; for, without *Measures* are changed as well as *Men* and *Hands*, all is at Stake still. But who is there then, Sir, that will, dare, or can point out, with any tolerable Prospect of Success, the real *Measures* that may, and, indeed, at last must be, taken and pursued with such Vigour and Dispatch, so as not only to save a *sinking State*, as many call it, but also to raise and render it the *Mistress*, and therefore the Darling and Delight, of all the neighbouring Nations? *Ecce Homo*, I will not presume to say, but *Ecce Via*, how to wrest and recover the Ballance of *Power and of Trade in Europe* out of the Hands of *France*, and then to rivet both for ever into those of *Great Britain alone*, I'll venture to lay down before you, Sir, and then will undertake to make it appear, that the *Modus operandi* in this Case, great as it is, is as fully, and as certainly self-evident, as any one single Proposition in all *Euclid's Elements*: And as what I'm going immediately to advance upon this Subject, shall be both short and clear, so I beg you, Sir, who are so great a Proficient in all naval Affairs whatsoever, and so remarkably expert, and those who are well acquainted with the History of your Actions, will readily add, and so wonderfully successful in Expeditions of all Kinds by Sea, will, with Patience
and

and Attention listen, read and reflect; and then, Sir, I shall, with Pleasure, submit to your Sentence: You *yourself*, therefore, Sir, and the Public with you, (so plain and clear shall my Tale be, tho' of such vast Importance to the State) are, and for ever shall be, my Judges: And in case of Opposition, from the *higher Powers*, then my Advocates.

You will then readily take it for granted, that the grand Topic at present upon the Carpet, by the great ones here, is, *what Measures* are to be instantly resolved upon and vigorously pursued, so as to carry on the War successfully against *Spain*, but to declare War against *France* at the same Time is yet kept in *Petto*, in spite of an open and designed Breach of the Neutrality by that Crown; and the best Heads seem to favour that, which You and I, as *Britons*, and therefore as Islanders, have always abhorred; I mean a *Land War*! But I hope, when former Precedents of the abortive Attempts and fruitless Effects of all *Land Wars* abroad, since the *Revolution*, tho' carry'd on at an immense Expence of Blood and Treasure, for Years together, in Conjunction and Confederacy with almost all the Powers in *Europe*; and all this to humble *France* alone, first, and then against *France* and *Spain*; I say it is to be wish'd, when our Governors come seriously and maturely to reflect on this Matter, they will alter their *now intended Measures*, and think on, take and pursue a hearty Sea War, so natural to an Island, and of such vast Benefit and Consequence to ours in particular; since all *Europe* must acknowledge, that she is, even at this very Instant of Time, the most powerful in, and ready prepared with, the most numerous and best appointed Navy in the whole Universe,

H

and

and therefore the most proper to put the *new Measures*, instantly to be laid before you, in Execution.

These Reflections, Sir, will, I know, be so obvious to you, as an *old Commander*, and according to your constant Custom formerly when such, an *Actor* in Person (your favourite Maxim having always been, that *Example* is preferable either to Precepts or Orders) that you'll readily observe my *Point de vue*, viz. That I purpose fairly to introduce, and warmly, and with unanswerable Reasons to recommend Captain *Morke's Scheme*, so as to be accepted of, and forthwith to be put in Execution, by the *new Administration*, soon to be appointed, tho' rejected, for a Time only, by the late ; and indeed you judg'd right, and you'll think I do so too, from what is immediately to follow.

The whole Stress then of Captain *Morke's Scheme* depends and solely hinges upon this single Proposition, viz. *Whether it be true?* And that this is no Supposition, but an absolute irresistible Truth, and a Matter of real Fact, I will attempt to demonstrate, tho' before one of your great Nicety and Delicacy in distinguishing, and judging critically, of Things of this kind particularly ; so far at least as presumptive Evidence is capable of conveying Conviction to the Mind of a Person, untainted with Prejudice, and free from all manner of Prepossession.

Plain it is, if Captain *Morke's Affidavit* may be credited, that Sir *Charles Wager* hath approved of all the Discoveries made to him by the Captain, founded upon his Scheme ;
and

and what renders this the more credible is, that had his Assertion in that Respect been false, the *Admiral*, who is a Person of distinguish'd Honour and Veracity (so far at least as is as yet publickly known) had certainly, in Defence of both, long since inserted a Counter-Advertisement to the three put into the *Daily Post*, by the *Captain*, the first of the 4th of *November* last, and two more since then; all three plainly, fully and expressly affirming the Facts, as stated in the *Conference* held between Sir *Charles* and himself: And add to this, his Letter to the *Admiral* of the 16th of the same Month, herewith also sent you, confirming the above, to which there is as yet no Answer, unless the most profound Silence on the *Admiral's* Part, may, by the *Publick*, be taken for one from him. The old Proverb, and you know Proverbs are generally founded upon Truth, of *Qui silet consentire videtur*, being, very probably, the *vox Populi*, for so silent an Answer. From all which strong Circumstances concurring in Favour of the Truth and Veracity of the *Scheme* in Question, it may be fairly, I think, concluded, that all the Facts, as stated in the *Conference*, are incontestibly true.

And what may be further insisted on in Favour thereof, is his Letter to Mr. *Collinson*, which, tho' of the utmost Consequence, the Facts alledged being put so very home to him, and which, no doubt, was immediately communicated to the *Admiral* (and possibly both Letters to the *Minister*) had yet the same Fate with that of the *Admiral's*, the same being likewise unanswered to this Day, as both will very probably now remain so, *usque ad calendas græcas*, since the PUBLI-

CATION of the Whole is already, and hath for some considerable Time, been absolutely fix'd upon and determin'd.

But what I flatter myself, will put every Supposition that may so much as be suggested, so as to impeach the Veracity of the Scheme, quite out of all manner of Doubt, will be the following Consideration, *viz.* As it must be allowed, according to the *Captain's Affidavit*, that by the Truth of the Contents of the three last Sections therein sworn to, it plainly appears, that the Particulars of this *grand Secret* were fully and at large communicated to and approved of by Sir *Charles*, and that sundry of them were likewise communicated to Mr. *Collinson*, by Sir *Charles's* Approbation and Commands, and that Sir *Charles* had frankly acknowledged to his Friend Mr. *Collinson*, that Captain *Morke* had fully and fairly made out his said Scheme or Proposal, to him, as the said *Collinson* had likewise to sundry other Persons of Note and Character, besides Captain *Morke*; so it must, according to the clear and plain Evidence of so many concurring Circumstances and Witnesses, be allowed and acknowledged, that the Facts as stated, are most certainly true, more especially, when it is further considered, that Mr. *Collinson*, soon after he had attended Sir *Charles*, to know from his *Honour's* own Mouth, both the Veracity, as well as the Solidity, of Captain *Morke's* Scheme, as set forth at large in the *Conference*, did acknowledge to sundry Persons of Note and Distinction (as just above hinted) and particularly to some of the Fellows of the *Royal Society* (of which he has the Honour to be a Member himself) that his Patron Sir *Charles Wager* had assured him, that Captain *John Morke*, at the *Conference* held with him at the *Admiralty*

ralty Office on the 11th Day of *January*, 1740-1, had opened his whole *Scheme*, and had given him full Satisfaction and Content, with Relation to the Particulars thereof, and that he, *Sir Charles*, had further declared to him, that the said *Scheme* was very practicable, and easy to be put in Execution, and that it would answer all the Ends proposed by it, in the *Proposal* or *Scheme* laid before him by *Captain Morke* (meaning the first Section herewith sent you) and that the only Objection he had to it was, that the Event of *Lord Cathcart* and *Sir Chaloner Ogle's Expedition* to the *West-Indies*, must be known first, before the *Captain's Scheme* could be accepted of and put in Execution, or Words to that or the like Effect, were openly and frankly declared by *Mr. Collinson* as aforesaid, and from the *Admiral's* own Mouth.

Upon the Whole therefore I will venture to assert, that if any one was to be try'd by a Jury, for a Fact said to be committed, where the Law allows and admits of circumstantial and presumptive Evidence, that such Person would actually be found guilty, even if no other Circumstances could be found or brought in against him, than only such, or the like, as I have here produced in Favour of the Truth and Veracity of *Captain Morke's Scheme*. And thus, *Sir Charles Wager* being privy to, and having approved of, the whole Scheme, *Mr. Collinson* to sundry Particulars of it, and *Captain Morke's* trusty and faithful Friend, who had the Honour of presenting the said Scheme or *Proposal* first of all to the *Prime Minister*, on the 26th Day of *December* last was Twelvemonths, as mentioned in the second Paragraph in the Beginning of my Letter, being likewise privy to the Whole, as the Gentleman

tleman himself, who is my own intimate Friend and Acquaintance, as well as the *Captain's*, hath more than once declared and acknowledged when the *Captain* was by, who frankly allowed it was true ; I say, Sir, these additional Circumstances do, in my humble Opinion, strongly corroborate, and, as I believe, you will readily allow yourself, clearly appear in the true Light of so many collateral Evidences in Support of all the Facts herein before alledged, and at large set forth.

However, lest you should hit upon the last, and, indeed, the only remaining Objection, to the Truth of what I have been labouring to prove, I have, Sir, determined to state it fairly, and to answer it fully, and therefore to your entire Satisfaction and Content, as well as to that of those, who may hereafter think it worth their while to peruse both this my Letter to you, and the four *Sections and Affidavit*, which I purpose to publish along with it.

This last and only Objection then that remains still to be made to Captain *Morke's Scheme*, is, in Effect, no more than a Supposition, and that I hope and believe a false one too, *viz.*

O B J E C T I O N.

As a false Supposition is, and necessarily must, in many Cases, be made, and particularly in this now before you, in order to come at, attain, and clearly see into, and be convinced of the Truth of a disputed Fact, so I will then here,
for

for once suppose, that Sir *Charles Wager* himself shall absolutely, peremptorily, and in so many Words, deny that he ever did, either at the *Conference*, or at any other Time, directly or indirectly give his Approbation to Captain *Morke's Proposal or Scheme for destroying or compelling the Surrender of any Fleet or Number of Enemies Ships, &c.* as set forth at large in the 2d Section, called, *The Subject Matter of the said Scheme canvass'd thoroughly by the Admiral, &c.* Supposing also further, that Sir *Charles's* Friend, Mr. *Collinson*, should likewise take it into his Head to deny that his Patron ever did assure him, that he had given Captain *Morke* his Approbation thereof, as set forth at large in the said second Section; and lastly, that he never had affirmed to any of the Members of the *Royal Society*, or to any other Person whosoever, that Sir *Charles* had given the Captain such his Approbation as aforesaid, &c.

A N S W E R.

Now, Sir, taking it for granted, that both Sir *Charles* and Mr. *Collinson* should be so devoid of all Honour and Integrity (and yet I cannot think either of them will, and more particularly the *Admiral*) as absolutely to deny the Facts so largely, and with the most minute Circumstances, set forth and illustrated in the Account Captain *Morke* hath given in the second *Section*, both at and after the *Conference*; the Truth of which is as well subscribed, as publicly sworn to, by him; I say, on such a Supposition, that the Whole should be thus peremptorily denied by both, what then would this all avail towards invalidating, or, in the least, derogating from the
Reality

Reality, and the literal Truth and Veracity of the *Captain's Scheme*? My fair Answer is, nothing at all; since such absolute and supposed Denial, cannot now, nor ever can, *in natura rerum*, alter a single *Foot* of the alledged Facts, or of any one single Circumstance produced concerning, or in Support of, them. And my Reason for this strong Assertion is as follows, and to you, Sir, and to any impartial and unprejudiced Reader hereafter, I do, in this publick Manner, appeal for the Truth of this my frank and most open Declaration, *viz.*

I am then, in Order, as I promised, fully to answer the above-stated Objection, *absolutely* to suppose, that both Sir *Charles* and Mr. *Collinson* will, when Matters are *ripe* enough to come to the *Test*, flatly, and at once, deny all the Facts alledged as Truths in the second Section, call'd, *The Subject Matter of the said Scheme canvass'd thoroughly*, &c. together with all that followed upon the *Conference*, so subscribed and sworn to by Captain *Morke* as aforesaid: I say, Sir, on a Supposition, that the Whole should be thus flatly denied by both Parties, *i. e.* That Sir *Charles* should think fit to declare, that he never had given his Approbation to Captain *Morke* of his said Scheme, or that he had ever so declared to Mr. *Collinson*, or to any other Person; and further, that Mr. *Collinson* should likewise *affirm* in the Negative, that his said Patron had ever told him that he had; I say, what would all that avail? just nothing at all, Sir, unless it be, that such Denial as aforesaid would render the Facts alledged yet much stronger, and abundantly more credible, than they were before: Because, on a further Supposition (which is not at all

all imaginary, nor unreasonable, if the Case should at last turn out according to the Objection made) that a *parliamentary Enquiry* should be made into such Part of those Facts stated in the *Conference*, as might regularly come under the Cognizance of one or both Houses; and that Captain Morke should be called upon, *first*, to give his Evidence so far as the same may relate to the Truth of such of his Allegations, in the Account he hath given the Publick, in the *four Sections* herewith sent you, as one or both of those *illustrious Assemblies* should think proper to pitch upon to him; and *then*, that, on his being so call'd upon, he should, in such publick Manner, acknowledge, and, *viva voce*, at the Bar of both Houses assert the literal Truth and Veracity of the whole four *Sections*, now to be published. And, *lastly*, as a further Proof of his Assertion to both Houses, that he should fairly and frankly offer to submit himself to be examined by such Persons, as either the *King* himself, or one or both of the *Houses of Parliament* should think fit to appoint or depute for that Purpose; and that then he should, as he most certainly would, in plain and intelligible Terms, reveal to *Them* this his grand Secret, and to make all such further and other Discoveries to *Them*, as well as he hath already done to the *Admiral*, as in the second *Section* set forth by him at large: I say, Sir, if this my Supposition should at last happen to be the Case, (and in Case of a War with *France* it most certainly will) and that those Persons so to be appointed and deputed as aforesaid, should make a full, firm and plain Report to their *Masters* who employed them, that Captain Morke hath fully made out, and fairly discovered to them, the Truth and Veracity of his Scheme, &c. and all the Facts founded thereon,

as plainly, clearly, and to the full, and in all Respects as he hath already represented and set them forth to be, in the Conference held with Sir Charles Wager on the 11th of January, 1740-1. I say, if all these Things should be really so (and that they really will turn out and prove to be so, I do verily, and, in my Conscience, believe) what will yourself and the Publick then think and say?

Now, Sir, if all that I have alledged in this last Paragraph should happen to be the Case at last, and it is highly probable that it will, on your Supposition of the *Denial*; will it then be any Question, when I say, *Where is now your grand and last Objection? And is it really and truly vanished or not?* But as all this is so very plain and apparent, and even self-evident, I shall leave the further Discussion, both of the *Objection* as I have stated it for you, and of my *Answer* to it, to your own impartial Judgment and unprejudiced Enquiry after Truth, hoping in the mean Time I have given you all the Satisfaction that you can in Reason and Conscience expect, in an Affair of so much real Use, and of such vast Importance, to the publick Weal, and of lasting Happiness to these Kingdoms.

I come now, Sir, to the Conclusion of my long Letter, which I had begun above two Months since, and carried on as fast as Captain Morke's Papers came to my Hands; for some of which I was obliged to wait, at certain Times, for ten or fourteen Days together. And at last having thus laid before you this whole Affair entire, and all the different and most minute Circumstances that have attended it, I proceed,
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in Obedience to your Commands, as I promised, and before I conclude, to make a few short, but natural, Reflections upon the Whole ; and to return to our *new Measures* NOW.

If, as it is here generally allowed, we are in the very *Even* of a Change in the present Administration, which hath been at the Helm of Government in Spite of a most obstinate and steady Opposition for almost twenty Years last past, so it is likewise generally believed, that *our Premier* will lead up the Dance, and resign all his Employments, the first of them all: Having, as I am well informed, this very Evening, declared, on his leaving the *House* still sitting (immediately after the unexpected Defeat, sustained by the Court Party, in the Division on the *Chip---ham Election*) that he *now* found “ *He could stem the Torrent no longer, and that therefore he* “ *was determined never to enter the Walls of St. Stephen’s* “ *Chapple more as a Member.*” Now what may follow here-upon I know not, unless it be what we call here a *motley Ministry* first ; and then, what is call’d a Rec---n in the R---l F---y, which will infallibly be another of the Consequences thereof : But whether that will prove a thorough or real one, or palliative and temporary only ; which last, some of the knowing ones seem to fear, is what Time only can discover. This I know, however, and will venture, Point blanc, to assert (for with you, Sir, I dare not prevaricate) that, unless there be a *thorough, a real, visible and lasting Change*, and Alteration in *our Measures*, as well as of some, or even all, of our Ministers, we shall still be what we were before, (I will not say *UNDONE*) since we cannot well be much worse.

One of your quick Apprehension, Vivacity and Experience, on observing the Drift of my Pen, will, I know, at once be tempted to conclude, and probably to say, *True it is, but what are the Measures that are now to be taken and pursued, and where, or how, are the Operations of War to begin, and to be carried on, at this critical Conjunction, for this Year of 1742? A Year big with expected Wonders: A NEW Æra indeed, continue you, with a Witness---* A NEW Emperor chosen by the Interest and Influence of the House of Bourbon! All Germany in a flaming Confusion! A French Army in the Heart of it supported with those of a powerful Protestant Crown, and as powerful a Protestant Electorate! A NEW Neutrality likewise in Germany, concluded before it was so much as dreamt of, by any other Power, but the two immediately concerned! The House of Austria, for Ages past, the Terror of France, on the very Brink of ANNIHILATION! And, to finish the Catastrophy, you'll probably add, Great Britain all the While inactive, and the seven united Provinces asleep with their Eyes open! All these great Events, to which I add, one more, and none of the smallest, viz. A sudden Change in the Administration at the Court of Great Britain, are, I say, all of them of such vast Consequence, and yet only a Prelude, to the ushering in of this great, this tremendous Year 1742.

Well, Sir, I have, with as much Patience, as great Grief, heard you out in enumerating and illustrating so many great and unexpected Events: and you certainly judge right in the present melancholly Situation of our Affairs, so far

as they relate to *Europe* in general : But when we come to *eye* them in another Light, I mean, so as to look upon and examine them narrowly, and set them in a just *Contrast*, to those of our *now most potent and hereditary Enemy*, France, (which, by a great Man hath a Hundred Years ago, and upwards, been most justly call'd, BRITANNIÆ EX TRA-
DUCE INIMICA) then indeed, the Scene changes ten thousand Times still worse to our Disadvantage. And this, Sir, will be yet more apparent, when we come to consider her vast Trade *now*, in Comparison with what it was at the *Revolution*, or at any Time since that remarkable Period, and likewise with our own in its present declining, and almost sinking State, in all Parts of the habitable Globe : And if the Trade and Shipping of that Kingdom, hath so remarkably increased, and particularly within these twenty Years last past, which I think, and as yourself on mature Reflection, must allow is as incontestible, as that our own hath as much and as visibly declined ; then, Sir, we must both of us likewise grant, that as the *French* have thus, by Means of their Vigilance and Activity, roused up and spurred on by our known Indolence and Inactivity, at last wrested the *Ballance of Trade* out of our Hands, and brought it into their own ; so it is not, nor can any longer be a Question, from whence it proceeds, that the *Ballance of Power* in *Europe*, for which (to pave its Way, for *universal Monarchy*, no doubt) that Crown hath been struggling hard, and without Intermission, for so many Years, I'd like to have said Ages, hath at last, and almost without a Blow, been acquired by it also, tho', (thank God alone, but not ourselves) not yet rivetted to it.

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Having, then, thus plainly laid before you the immense, and much to be lamented, Power of *France* at this Time, and the Steps taken by that intriguing Court, to obtain it, I come now in the last Place to point out the ONLY *Measures* in this *Crisis* of ours, at this Time to be taken and vigorously pursued; which, if put in Execution, as they easily may, and ought to be, *nothing*, not even all the inland and naval Strength and Power of *France*, united with that of *Spain*, (our now declared Enemy) and all its other Allies, possibly can prevent us from regaining, *first* the Ballance of Power in *Europe*, and then recovering that of *Trade*, nor, *from rivetting both for ever in the Crown and Kingdom of Great Britain ALONE*. And this, Sir, you will, and must, readily allow, is all we wish for, and all we want.

And to make this appear plain and intelligible to every Capacity capable of reflecting, as well as to your own penetrating Genius, I do upon the Whole conclude, and do, in so many Words, positively assert, that no *Measures* whatsoever, can, by any Administration in this Kingdom, whether by the present, (which may, without a Paradox I think, be now call'd the late or the old Ministry, since it is confess'd, on all Hands, that we are, as already hinted, in the *Eve* of a *new* one) or by the intended *new and motley* one, be taken, vigorously pursued, and then put in Execution, so as, with the like Expedition, little Risk, and a trifling Expence, fully to obtain the just-mentioned *glorious Ends*, *viz.* Those of regaining the *Ballance of Power* (which is the *first* Thing to be done) and then recovering that of *Trade*, unless it be
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those pointed out by Captain *Morke's* Scheme, Proposal or Plan, and by him fully laid before, and communicated at large, to the Right Honourable Sir *Charles Wager*, on the 11th of *January* last was Twelvemonth, as appears by the second Section so often mentioned : And that I may not be taxed with making so strong an Assertion, without urging at the same Time the strongest Reasons, and such as shall appear to be self-evident in themselves, in Support of the Truth and Validity thereof, I proceed to lay them down frankly and plainly before your Eyes, and then to leave the just Reflections that will naturally and clearly result from them, to your own most mature and serious Consideration, and to that of the Publick.

To perform this, Sir, will be no hard Task for me, when yourself, and every thinking Person will allow, it must be taken for granted, that what hath been already, and at large, asserted, with Relation to Captain *Morke's* Scheme, is *really Fact, and, bona fide, the Truth* : And if there yet be any Infidel left, who may be so much abandoned to Prejudice, or to Self-conceit, as still to doubt, notwithstanding the numerous concurring Circumstances in Favour of it, amounting even to Demonstration : I say, let such a one, if such a one there be, wait till the *Captain* be called upon by the *King himself, Lords or Commons, or the new Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty* (if their Lordships are to be changed too) and to be in the strictest and most rigid Manner examined by such Persons as *His Majesty, or those illustrious Assemblies or Lords Commissioners*, shall think fit to appoint and depute for that Purpose ; and then I will once more thus publicly
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venture to assert, and to answer for it when I have done, that the *Captain* shall make all my Words good and true, so far at least, as they do relate to the absolute Truth and Veracity of his *Scheme*, and also, that *those* who shall or may have the Honour to be so appointed or deputed, readily shall, and freely will, report it as I have already mentioned, without any Scruple or Hesitation.

Having thus established the *Measures* now to be taken and pursued on the Footing and Foundation of Captain *Morke's* Scheme, I am next to shew why they are preferable to any other that may be meditated and set on Foot, with the like View of compassing, tho' without any Possibility of effecting and obtaining the same glorious Ends: And then to demonstrate, that no other *Measures* whatsoever are capable (even in *Potentia*, were they never to be executed) of performing them, either with the like, or any Way near the like Expedition, little Risk and small Expence. But all these Points, Sir, after so much has been said, and clearly made out and proved, relating to the Truth of Captain *Morke's* Scheme, must appear so very clear and obvious to one of your fine Genius and Turn of Thought, that I shall but just mention, and then separately, however, touch upon them, and with a few short, but necessary, Reflections more, conclude this unpardonable long Letter.

That a *Land War* (to which I do thus naturally return) is now upon the Carpet, and intended to be carried on, and pushed somewhere abroad in *Europe* (as for *America*, the knowing Ones say we have felt enough of that there already,
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to postpone at least, if not deter us from going on with it, unless a *new Modus operandi* be taken) is, I believe, the general Opinion here, and I doubt it is founded upon too much Truth, if not prevented by some sudden and unexpected Negotiation, Cessation of Arms, or Peace with *Spain*; none of which, however, are so much as dream'd of here, since a Change or Alteration in the Administration, is so suddenly now, by every Body, look'd, and, as is thought, by the Generality wish'd for: Yet who knows what may happen? I am, however, willing, in order not only to clear away the Rubbish that may be thrown in my way, but also the better to illustrate the Proposition I have undertaken to prove, (which I doubt not of making out, equal to the Truth of one of the simplest in *Euclid*) to take it for granted, that a *Land War* will, very soon, be prosecuted somewhere abroad, and in *Europe*; but *where* that Spot is to be, is, as yet, I believe, a grand Secret to all of us.

Now to take a thorough View of this Matter in a clear Light, we must reflect on the Events that have happened in the like Circumstances, in the respective Reigns of King *William* and Queen *Anne*: For we are to, and must, suppose, if a *Land War* in Earnest be undertaken, that *Spain* and *France*, at least, if not some other Powers in Conjunction with them also, will become Parties against us. And then to consider how far, and how soon, we were Gainers by those respective *Land Wars*, carried on with the utmost Vigour, and push'd in *Spain*, *Italy*, *Germany*, and at last in *Flanders*: And likewise at what a vast Effusion of Blood, and Profusion of Treasure, they were both managed for us, though in Con-

federacy and Conjunction with, all the greatest Powers in *Europe*; all which lasted, I mean those two Wars, for a long Series of twenty Years and upwards: And here it is to be considered, that during this whole Time, we acted by Sea, as well as by Land, at an additional and unheard-of Expence, the *Dutch* having constantly joined us all the while, or, as Occasion best served, acted seperately, in the common Cause, as we call'd it.

I now come to cast up the Ballance gained by us from *France*, in the first Land and Sea War, and from *France* and *Spain* jointly in the Second: But since, if I was to use Figures so to do, I should certainly make a *Dutch Reckoning* of it; so I presume to leave that intricate Point to you, Sir, who have a better Head for Numbers of that kind; or, if you do not much relish the Task, you are at Liberty, if you think fit, to assign it over to any of our former *Premiers*, or to that great Personage, whoever he may be, that is now soon to have that Honour conferred upon him. For I do assure you, it is too arduous for my Pen, who am only used to mercantile, but never yet to national, Accounts: Yet thus much I will venture to say, before I leave the Subject, that we have, by Virtue of those two Land and Sea Wars, acquired an *eternal* Load of *national Debts*, amounting to 50,000,000, and upwards: You'll pardon the Appellative *Eternal*, Sir, till such time as you shall think fit to inform me, when, or whether ever such a large Demand upon us will be paid. And as for the Security we have had for the Support of the Protestant Interest at Home or Abroad (the Common Place Topic) I have already hinted, and I here repeat it, that it
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hath never been at so low an Ebb, at least Abroad, for these fifty Years last past and upwards, (and for which, we are chiefly oblig'd to the Fourth Article of the *Ryswick* Treaty) as it is now, so far is it off, from being better establish'd. Now if you will favour me in your next with a real and solid *Ballance*, gained by and paid us, for all this Blood-shed and Treasure expended, then *eris mihi magnus Apollo*.

Let us now take a short View in another Light, yet still a true and clear one, with Relation to the Parties with whom, we then waged, those two successive *Land and Sea Wars*: For the peaceful *Ryswick* Interval did not, I think, bless us above Two Years. And we shall find that in the first, *France* was almost all alone, and yet not near so strong and powerful then as now, and much inferior still in her Trade, and therefore in her Shipping, than at this Time. *France* was then almost an utter Stranger to the *Woollen, Spanish and Turkey* Trade, and altogether so, to the *India, Sugar, &c. &c. &c.* which I could, with great Ease, point out, were they not too obvious to all the *European* Nations, but particularly to ourselves; who so sensibly now feel the fatal Increase of the *French* Trade, and for that very Reason, so dearly suffer, and daily pay, for the visible Decrease of our own. But when we come coolly to enquire on the other Hand, after the Parties then at War with *France*, so circumstantiated, and so alone, we shall then see the grand Confederacy of almost all *Europe* against her, viz. *Great Britain* and all her Dependencies, the *Emperor, Spain* Old and New, (I will not venture to name *Portugal*, though I think that

Crown was also with us, and not *neutral* as now) the *United Provinces*, the Duke of *Savoy*, and with him, some of the greatest Powers in *Italy*, *Saxony*, *Bavaria*, and with the Prince of that Electorate, all the *Spanish Netherlands*, and almost all *Germany*; the Protestant Cantons, and, if I mistake not, a Power or two in the North: I say all these Powers, either in Confederacy with us, or as Auxiliaries, all in Arms, and all against *France*, in a manner, *per se*: “ And where did this mighty SHEW end? say you.” I answer, in the wonderful and admirably well-concerted Peace of *Ryswick*, as you yourself do well know, and all the Protestant Interest in *Europe*, to this Day, by the said famous Fourth Article of it feels: And, I need not therefore add, *parturiunt montes*, &c.

As to the Second War begun likewise indeed in our great Deliverer's * Reign, though at the very End of it, and of his Life (for which War, as you have formerly often observed, we may thank the famous *Partition Treaty alone*) and carried on vigorously both by Sea and Land by Queen *Ann*: I say, this last *Land War*, which furnished us almost every Campaign, with a Siege, as well as a decisive *Battle* (as every one of the last, was then usually called, and particularly those of *Hockstadt* and *Rameilles*, the first having fav'd the *Empire*, and the last the *Netherlands*) in prosecuting whereof we were always victorious, and ever

* You see, my old *Revolution* Friend, I do not forget the grand Epithet, so justly given by the Three Kingdoms to, and so richly and well-deserved by, King *William*, since he delivered us from *Popery*, and therefore from all Sorts of Vice, Luxury in particular, and Immorality, which are so perfectly well rooted out, and extinguished amongst us; that we may, you know, *now* be justly called the Island of *Saints* or *Angels*, as a poor Illiterate *Monk* formerly took the Word *Anglorum* to mean

ever carrying our Point, is so very recent, that I need not expatiate upon it. I shall therefore only add one short Reflection that naturally results from my first Proposition, *viz.* That for these fifty Years last past and upwards, though two *Land Wars* were carried on with the utmost Vigour, by this Crown, in Conjunction with its Confederates and Auxiliaries, which were almost all the Powers in *Europe*, *first* against *France* alone, and *then* against *France* and *Spain* jointly; and still, these two Crowns were not then near so powerful as they are now, as has already been plainly proved: Yet so it happened, and such were the Events of both, notwithstanding of the strongest and most powerful Confederacy ever formed in *Europe*, and in spite of so many compleat and repeated Victories, both by Sea and Land, in both those *Land Wars*, particularly in the last, that the Advantages obtained for the Three Kingdoms by them, (at whose immense Expence they were almost wholly and solely, yet so chearfully and steadily, carry'd on) are yet, I doubt, and so do you, at some very great Distance, and likely to remain so, unless the *new Measures*, never before so much as dreamt of, but now pointed out and fairly laid before you, as well as they were twelve Months ago and upwards, before Sir *Charles Wager*, be heartily gone into and pursued with Vigour.

And thus, Sir, I come to sum up all I have so particularly, and, I hope, so fully and fairly explained to you, and to reduce the whole into these two single Points, *viz.* That there is now nothing left for us to do, but either quietly to *submit* by *Neutralities*, or *long-winded Treaties* (and those continued will very soon have that Effect) to the over-reaching and exorbitant

orbitant Powers of the *House Bourbon*, on its own Terms ; or, (for there is no *other Alternative*, none in the Nature of Things now for us to lay hold of) instantly to go plum into Captain *Morke's* Scheme, and put the same, with all convenient Dispatch, into Execution. If the *first* should, in spite of the strongest Conviction, our unhappy Case, which God forbid, then indeed it will be no hard Matter to determine how soon we shall become a *Gens Perdita* with a Witness : But on the other Hand, if we should at last awake out of a Twenty Year's supine Lethargy, and rouse up in good Earnest, and be so just and obliging to ourselves, as to accept of the best, the fairest and the least expensive *Plan* that ever was laid before any *Prince or State whatsoever, from the Beginning of the World to this Day* (to use the very Words of Captain *Morke's* Proposal,) and that may be put in Execution, with such incredible Dispatch, and with so very little Risk, &c. Both which material Points have already been, in sundry preceding Parts of my Letter, as well as in others of the *Captain's* own Papers, sufficiently, and so far as they prudently could be mentioned in Publick, hinted at, and in general Terms asserted, and yet so, as infallibly to succeed in the proposed Enterprize. I say, Sir, *These, these* are the *New Measures* to be taken, and immediately, and with Vigour, to be pursued, and put into Execution, *viz. First*, By examining of the *Captain himself*, who will, I do well know, be to the full as candid and explicite in his Discoveries to *those* who, as it is to be hop'd, may soon be appointed and deputed by some one or other of the *Superior Powers* for that Purpose, as it appears he hath already been to *Sir Charles Wager* ; then, as is presumed, a just and impartial

tial Report will be made in Writing, by those Gentlemen who are to have the Honour to be thus employ'd as aforefaid, which, I am well fatisfied will be full as much in Favourof Captain *Morke's* Scheme, as what hath been already alledg'd in its Behalf at large, in the second Section herewith sent you, and so often before-mentioned, called, *The Subject Matter of the Scheme, &c.* And lastly, when the *Plan* in question, hath been thus solemnly and fully reported true, and peremptorily approv'd of in Writing, by such Persons as may have the Honour of being so appointed and deputed, either by *his Majesty himself*, or by either or both *Houses of Parliament*, or *Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty* for the Time being, as hath been already, and so often suggested: I say, to all which, as I have Authority to add, as an absolute Confirmation thereof, and of all that I have said upon this momentous Affair, from Captain *John Morke himself*, who is at this Instant of Time with me, and hath perused what I do now write to this Subject, by the Channel of this my Letter to you, Sir: He doth in this Publick Manner offer, readily and with Pleasure to submit himself to be examined (by such Persons as shall be so appointed and may hereafter have the Honour to be deputed as aforefaid, with Relation to the Truth and Veracity of his whole Scheme; and in short to that of all the Discoveries so made by him to Sir *Charles Wager*, on the 11th of *January 1740-41.* as well as plainly to shew and convince them, how practicable and easy his said Scheme is, and with what incredible Dispatch, little Risk, and small Expences the same may be put in Execution; and yet so, as fully and effectually to answer all the glorious Ends proposed by it: This, Sir, is an Offer so generous, so open,
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and is so intirely void of the *prevailing Passion* of this Age, *Self-Interest*, and in short so big and turgid, with such great and unexpected Blessings (under God) to this, without it, helpless and distressed Kingdom, that if it be not accepted of very soon, and put in Execution too, the Old and Noble *Romans Maxim*, of *Quos Jupiter vult perdere dementat prius* must, in spite of full Conviction, and of the true Sense the *Publick* hath on many late memorable Occasions express'd, of our most wretched Condition, be not only properly, but also literally apply'd to ourselves. So that, since it appears to be both plain and most true, from the *fatal Precedents* of the two last expensive and destructive *Land Wars*, both of them within our own Memories (for I wave dealing with or quoting of dead Historians, relating many Transactions of the like Kind and Effect before the *Revolution*) that we have no Reason, and therefore no Hope of expecting better Success, if we should engage *de novo* in a *Land War* against *France* and *Spain*, thus powerfully allied, as the two Crowns now are, it must, I say, therefore, on mature and unbiaſſed Reflection, be allowed, that no other *Measures* are or need be taken by this Kingdom, in order immediately to wrest the Ballance of *Power* in *Europe* out of the Hands of *France*, as well as to recover that of *Trade*, than Captain *Morkes's* new Scheme only, the speedy executing whereof will most effectually rivet both for ever, in the Crown and Kingdom of *Great Britain* ALONE.

And this will be illustrated with yet more glaring and irresistible Truth, and with greater Force and Perspicuity, when it comes to be considered that the Ports and Harbours
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of both *Dunkirk*, *Havre de Grace*, of *Brest* and *Toulon*, together with all their Forts and Shipping within or before them, of what Force or Size soever they may be, infallibly and absolutely must fall into our Hands, or be wholly laid open, or totally destroy'd, and for ever remain so, if we shall think fit so to do: And the like with any other Ports or Harbours that we shall judge proper, or of less Consequence at this Time, suppose *St. Malo's*, &c. necessary to destroy, and that are now in the Power and Possession of the Crown of *France*; and all this to be performed, Wind and Weather permitting, (for to expect Miracles, is quite out of the Question with all Men of Sense) by the sole Use of Capt. *Morke's* Scheme, in one single Summer, or perhaps less, and not too late, to go upon the requisite Preparations for it now: And, which adds inexpressible Weight to the Enterprize, with much less Risk of the Lives of Men and Expence of Treasure and Time, than by any other Way or Method whatsoever, now known or ever practised before. And what I here assert, as to the Demolition or perpetual Destruction, or for ever keeping open the strongest Ports and Harbours of *France*, I do aver the same with Regard to all those of *Old* or *New Spain*, or of any other Enemy whosoever, or in any Part of the World whatsoever, and therefore none of the strongest Ports or Harbours on the Coast of *Barbary* and *Africa*, nor any of those in the Power of the Famous *Angria* the Pirate (for no Shallowness of Water, or Foulness of the Harbour, can prevent the full Execution of Captain *Morke's* Scheme) or of any other Power whatsoever in the *East Indies*, are hereby excepted: Because all must or may be reduced and inevitably fall a Sacrifice by and into our Hands, if we please, and will at last

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be in Earnest. Some therefore of the strongest Ports or Harbours in *Old* and *New Spain*, that may be the most wanted by Us, because of the immense Predjudice they have been and still are to our *Trade*, and of as great Advantage to *France*, the Common Enemy, I will, once for all, lay before you, *viz.* *St. Sebastians*, that despicable Nest of Thieves, and *Bilboa*, *Cadiz*, and *Barcelona*, in *Europe*. In *America* I shall only mention *Carthagena* and the *Havana*; which, if I mistake not, are at this Time by us the most wanted, and the hardest to be come at; since we have not as yet been able to make ourselves Masters of any one of those strong *Sea-holds*, as I may, I hope, properly call them, either in the present War with *Spain* only, or in the late with *France* and *Spain* jointly, *Barcelona* only excepted; and yet all or any one of 'em might long since have been in our Possession, or laid open (as fairly suggested in the 1st Question of Captain *Morke's* Letter to Mr. *Collinson*, intituled the 2d. Section) had the *Scheme* in debate been accepted of, when first proposed to, and so highly approved of by *Sir Charles Wager*; and notwithstanding of the Importance of such remarkable Service to *Great Britain*, which had infallibly compell'd the haughty Court of *Madrid*, long before this Time, to have courted us, and with a *Charte Blanche* in its Hands too, for a Peace; yet I say, in all human Probability, Captain *Morke's Scheme*, being founded upon Mathematical Demonstration, all this might have been performed by and done for us, with much less Charge and Effusion of Blood, than hath been expended and spilt, on the fruitless and unfortunate Attempt upon *Carthagena* alone, therein comprehended, the Expence of the Ship-

Shipping and Preparations for the Attempt, and the Descent upon *Cuba* after it.

And as to add more, and still to multiply Words, to one of your Understanding in these Affairs, would be to argue an Absurdity, so, if it may be thought that I have said too much, or made too free with my Pen already, I may with great Justice, I hope, flatter myself that the high Importance of the Subject I have handled, on behalf of this distress'd, I had like to have said *distracted*, this greatly impoverish'd and disgraced Kingdom, together with the evident Certainty, that the *Scheme* I have thus laid before you, is able not only absolutely to retrieve all our past Losses, but also fully to recover and restore the former *Trade, Power, Splendor* and Weight of *Great Britan* in *Europe*, and to render the same by far higher than before, and yet for ever *permanent*; these uncommon Considerations, I say, will, I presume, readily and sufficiently Apologize, both for the Plainness and Openness of my Stile, the Repetition of certain Facts, and the Prolixity of some Periods. I shall therefore now draw to a Close on taking the Liberty however first, (as an additional Weight and in order to clinch and rivet what I have already offered) to advance something more still, that I have not before touched upon, and is therefore quite new (tho' founded upon Captain *Morke's Scheme*, as is indeed my whole Letter) but will yet prove to be of such vast Consequence and of such visible, and immediate Advantage to our dear Country, and in Course of such irreparable *Damage* to its hereditary Enemies, as will render its Ministers beyond all Excuse, if they do not

at last, with open Arms, accept of this *Scheme*, and likewise put it, with all reasonable Dispatch, and in good Earnest, in Execution, *viz.*

It is but too well known, by the *Maritime Powers* of *Europe*, and too sensibly felt by their Trading Subjects, that the great Increase of *Shipping*, and therefore of *Trade*, in all the Sea-Ports, as well as along the Sea Coasts of *France*, have multiplied and advanced to such an amazing Degree, within these twenty Years last past particularly, as hath most justly surprized, tho' not yet roused all her Neighbours, and how well and with what great Ease, therefore, this *new* Advantage, which is indeed and in plain Terms, a new Acquisition of Wealth, and that naturally causeth an Addition of Power, (to that Kingdom in former Times and even within the Memory of Multitudes of living Witnesses altogether unknown) may furnish its aspiring and ambitious Court with the pleasing Views, and then of the proper Means, for an *Invasion* or *Descent* upon us, since Transports *now* are as little wanting to favour and forward its *Designs*, as Troops formerly were and still are (tho' in greater Numbers and better disciplin'd and appointed than ever) to put them in Execution: I say, these and such like most natural Reflections and weighty Considerations, all purely and without Force, flowing from Matters of known Fact, are so very obvious to, and intelligible by any thinking unprejudiced Person, that I need not, at this Time, trouble you with expatiating upon, or any further illustrating of this melancholy Subject: For it is to be justly, I think, imagined, that the bare Suggestion only of the Possibility of an *Invasion*, more especially at this critical Conjunction, when

when our ancient and natural Ally, the *House of Austria*, is no longer able to make any tolerable Diversion in our Favour by a *Land War*, will, if we be not yet quite lost to all Sense of our Interest and Honour, or, all of us not still a Sleep, surely at last prove, a thorough rousing Allarum Bell, to our most judicious and watchful Administration. If this then be really the Case with *France* at this Time, and that it is not so in Fact, neither Friends nor Foes will venture to deny: What *effectual* Measures can then be fallen upon and pursued, for ever to prevent a Danger so very imminent and so big with Destruction, from coming upon us, at a Time perhaps too, when the fatal Blow is the least expected? None, I do aver, Sir, in the whole World, now left, that are able radically to cure this Evil, or effectually to recover and restore our sickly Constitution to its pristine Vigour and Health, and to prevent a Relapse, unless it be *fairly, and in the Face of the Sun, to lay open all their Sea-ports, and to destroy all their Shipping, &c.* and that this cannot ever be done effectually and with Dispatch perform'd, but by the *sole Use* of Captain *Morke's Scheme*, hath, I hope, already sufficiently and beyond all Contradiction appeared, and will, when that *worthy and disinterested Person* comes to be examined, in the Manner as herein before suggested, more publickly and therefore yet more incontestably, be cleared up and made evident. And thus, and upon the Whole, the generous Proposal of this *Scheme*, so offered without any stipulated Reward, and the good *Captain's* Condescension to remain with us yet a while, notwithstanding of the *Severity of the Usage* he has receiv'd (as hinted in his Letter to *Collinson* in *August* last) and in spite of all the tempting Offers that have been lately made him
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from another Quarter, (which at this Time shall be nameless) but rejected with Contempt, ought in this *Crisis* of Affairs at Home and Abroad, by all those who wish well to their Country, and would prevent the total Subversion of the *House of Austria*, to be gratefully acknowledged, as a most particular Blessing from Heaven.

But here I am well aware of a *Gigantic* Objection (as I doubt not, some will, from the Nature of its seeming Out-side Force call it) that will readily be made to what I have here asserted: Yet by those only whose *sordid Interest*, join'd to the Want of solid Judgment and Reflection, could move and induce them to start it, viz. *Let us keep up a constant, strong and regular Land Force, and that alone will both effectually discountenance and absolutely prevent any Foreign Invasion or Descent.* But, alas! Sir, in what an absurd and ridiculous Light, must this mean and cowardly, and I might justly add, *most costly* Objection appear in, when what hath already been, so clearly and at large offered and advanced with Relation to the fatal Effects of our late *Land Wars* abroad, is fully and justly considered; for I hope there are none, so *highly disaffected*, and so barefacedly wicked, yet to be found amongst us, as will dare, openly at least, to plead for keeping up a strong and regular *Land Force*, with no other View than purely against their *Fellow Subjects* at Home, such an Argument only suiting a Reign like that of *James the 2d.*; tho' plain and notorious it is, that even an Army of 50,000 Men could not then make it a good nor a true one: I say, not only the bad Events of our late *Land Wars* abroad, but also the most extensive Use and infinite Advantage of the *Scheme* here contended for, must, on due Reflection, and

and mature Consideration, disarm this *gigantic* Objection of all its Force, lay it quite naked, and fairly strip it of all its out-side Gloss and false Varnish. And then indeed it vanishes like a Cloud before the Wind, soon out of Sight, and therefore, I hope, for ever out of Mind. For while it is in our own Power to be sole Masters of this *Scheme*, and at our own Pleasure to put it in Execution, and at a trifling Expence too (when compared only with the annual Charge, of a gaudy useless Fleet) yet so as “*to destroy or absolutely to compel the Surrender of any Number of Enemies Ships, whether at Sea or in Port, be it ever so strong,*” then surely the most dreadful, but ill grounded, Apprehensions of some, and the artful and designing Declamations of others, of an intended *Invasion*, or *Descent*, abroad, and on an Island too, must be deemed a mere *Bugbear* or a *Phantom*; and while we thus remain alone possess’d of the Discovery and Use of Captain Morke’s *Scheme*, a *standing Army*, tho’ 50,000 strong, or upwards, must, in Effect, be esteemed no better than a *standing Joke*.

I have now but one Observation more to make, and likewise a new one, before I dare venture with Honour, to leave this important Subject. For incerting whereof, yourself and every *true* and *thinking* Protestant thro’out all *Europe*, as well as in *Great-Britain*, &c. will heartily thank me; since the *just* and *proper* Use that may be made of it, will as certainly compel the *Restoration* of the glorious and Honourable *Edict of Nantes*, as it most assuredly will, the Revocation of the fatal 4th Article of the *Treaty of Ryswick*; which last I have, with both Grief and Indignity, mention’d in other Parts of this Letter. What I would then say is, Sir, with
Relation

Relation to the new Method of *Treaties*, call'd *Neutralities*, at this Time much in Vogue with *certain Powers* in *Europe*, the bare naming thereof must at once open and unravel, to one of your penetrating Genius and Vivacity, the whole Scene; since, on mature Reflection, plain evident and obvious it is, that so soon as the strongest *Sea-Ports* and Harbours of *France* (and such are undoubtedly the most commodious for carrying on their *Trade*) are fairly laid, and for ever must lie, open, and her *Shipping* of all kinds, whether for War or for Trade, taken, sunk or destroy'd; that then a *Maritime Power* so acting in Earnest, will no longer have Occasion to sollicite, much less still to court the *House of Bourbon*, for any Neutrality whatsoever, even if its *foreign Dominions* were so unluckily situated, as to border on the Kingdom or lye in the very Heart of *France*; but on the contrary, so well and so thoroughly am I satisfied of the literal Truth, Veracity and Use of Captain *Morke's Scheme*, that I will venture to add, that was that *insolent Crown* so served and attack'd (and surely it hath from this injured Kindom richly deserved such Treatment, as is publickly known to all *Europe*) it would then readily cringe and creep, as some Powers as near Home, on other Occasions formerly have done, and with open Arms both offer a *Subsidy*, and, if wanted, quickly and at its own Expence, readily send a whole Army, as a *Safe-guard* to preserve the Territories of such other Potentate as might, in Case of Refusal, by a simple missive Letter only, to the Court of *Versailles* absolutely and for ever prevent its building even a *single Ship*, either for War or for Trade, without the special Licence or Connivance of that *Prince* so armed and prepared to put this excellent, and (for this Island,) most necessary and

and useful at his own free Will and Pleasure, in Execution : And now, Sir, and on dismissing this curious and pleasing Subject ; a Subject that must highly delight, rouse and animate every *true* Briton and every *true* Protestant, I say, I will venture to end it thus, *viz.* By proclaiming to the World your Sentiments and my own upon it, as well as those of all the hearty Well-wishers to the most illustrious and ancient *House of Austria*, in the following *Episode* (pray Pardon the Impropriety of this Poetical Word in Prose, since I cannot, in this Hurry of a Post Night, think immediately of a Better) *viz.* O ! how happy and at last fortunate would the poor and distressed, but brave and magnanimous *Queen of Hungary* indeed be, had her Majesty only such a single Maritime Power alone, (as I have been here describing) for her true and faithful Ally. But, Sir, as *verbum sapienti* is enough, and that enough is a Feast, so I purpose to conclude with the next two short Paragraphs : Upon this express Condition, however, that you do accept of 'em both, in the Sense and Character of a *Woman's Postscript*, *i. e.* as the Burthen of the whole Song, at a Time of such immediate imminent approaching Danger, as has for Ages past, by this Kingdom been altogether unknown.

What an excellent Roman Author said of the great *Fabius viz. cunctando restituit Rem*, having been upon certain late and critical Occasions, quoted by sundry Persons of Figure and Distinction, for Reasons best known to themselves, in Justification and Support of our *late Measures* ; and by others of inferior Rank and Capacity, as a Parallel only, or in Palliation of 'em. I hope, Sir, what I have in this Letter so clearly and explicitly pointed out, and, as I flatter myself, at large

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demonstrated, will be over and above sufficient to convince you, and the *Publick* with you, that the Sentence so quoted, has been, by those Gentlemen, both grossly misrepresented and purposely misapply'd. For if the Allegations herein brought, and the salutary Maxims laid down before you, be in Reality Matters of Fact, and that they are actually so, none will venture to deny, that are capable of judging impartially; then Sir, the *Reverse* of *cunctando*, &c. as applied to our *late Measures*, must absolutely and inevitably be most true, since a further Delay in, and the postponing of NEW MEASURES, only for one Summer more, must infallibly and will effectually *do our Business*, with a Witness; and with ours, that likewise of the whole *Protestant Interest* in Europe.

Now what that *Business* is, wants, I think, no Comment; unless it be, (however, by way of fair Warning and timely Prevention only) an Analogical Application to ourselves, of the oldest Proverb extant, *viz.* of SERO SAPIUNT PHRYGES: and, lest the Prince of all the *Greek* Poets, may, now, in your advanc'd Years, be no longer your Favourite-Amusement, as formerly, I must put you in mind, that the Introduction of a *Foreign Horse*, was the sole Cause of the *Destruction of Troy*; and therefore, that the fatal *Catastrophe*, which was then thus brought upon that *so much envy'd* City and Country, and by their own Hands, Free-will and Consent too, was so very surprizing and remarkable to the Neighbouring Nations, that it soon afterwards became the Foundation of the just mention'd most ancient, wise and alarming *παροιμία*: which hath undoubtedly been recorded in History for 3000 Years and upwards, as an awakening
and

and smarting Lesson to the World; that even *Wisdom* ^s itself,
tho' the pure Gift of Heaven, is ever bought too dear, when
Repentance comes too late.

*Aude aliquid brevibus Gyris & Carcere dignum,
Si vis esse aliqui^s——* Juvenal.

I am &c.

QUEEN-SQUARE, WESTMINSTER,
2d February 1741—2.
A new Epoch.

• F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

The candid Reader is humbly desired to pass over such orthogra-
phical Errors, as may have slipt the Press, and to insert the following
few Words, which have been omitted, viz. In Page 32. Line 17. after
the Word *put*, read *it*, p. 41. l. 16. after *as*, read *it*, p. 78. l. 1. after
House, read *of*, and after *Conviction*, l. 6. in the same Page, read *come*
to be.

